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BUSINESS

Lincoln Millstein is Hearst senior VP

Chronicle News Services | May 29, 2013



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MEDIA

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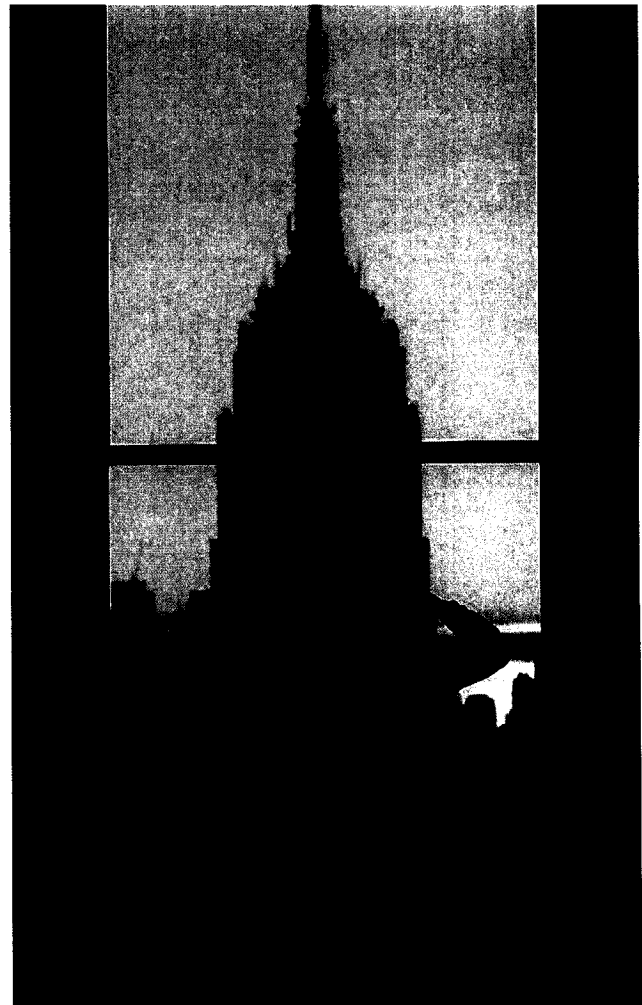


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Chronicle News Services Published 8:36 pm, Wednesday, May 29, 2013



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"Over the past eight years, Lincoln has become both a trusted adviser and digital media leader in the company," Swartz said. "His digital experience, knowledge of management and operations, and strong working relationships throughout Hearst will be great assets to me and all of our senior leadership team."

Millstein is one of the recognized digital pioneers in newspapers. He co-founded Boston.com for the Boston Globe in 1995 and ran it for five years before moving to New York as executive vice president of New York Times Digital. After joining Hearst, he spearheaded numerous industry initiatives including the Newspaper Consortium with Yahoo in 2006, the creation of the first industry private exchange, quadrantONE, a partnership with Zillow.com and the creation of the industry retail joint venture Wanderful Media last year.

ACQUISITIONS

Chinese takeover of U.S. pork producer

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China's consumption of pork is rising with the expansion of its middle class while questions are being asked about the safety of the country's food supply. Smithfield's livestock unit is the world's largest hog producer, bringing about 15.8 million of the animals to market a year. It owns 460 farms

and has contracts with 2,100 others across 12 U.S. states.

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The shows announced are Amazon's first original series. The comedies selected include "Alpha House," created by Garry Trudeau and starring John Goodman. It's about four senators who rent a house together in Washington. Meanwhile, "Betas" follows four friends and the new mobile social networking app they are developing. Other than some possible free sampling, the videos will be made available only to subscribers of Amazon Prime the online retailer's \$79-a-year membership plan.

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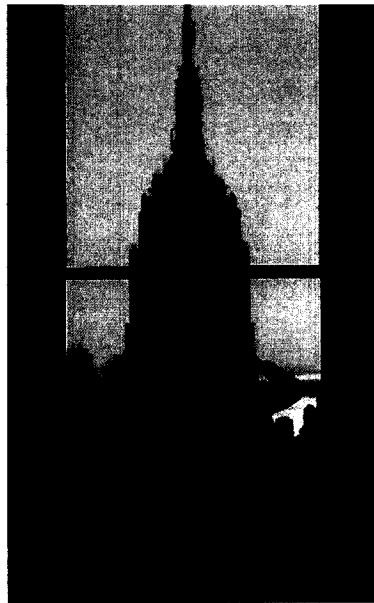
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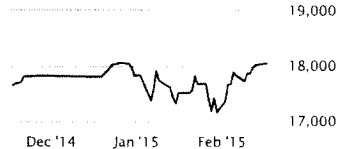
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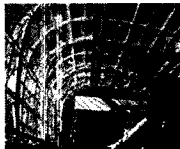
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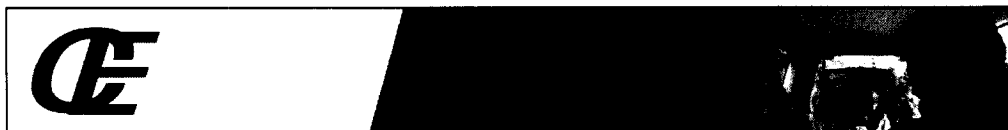
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Want to Own a Piece of the Empire State Building?

Michael Lewis, The Motley Fool
 Published 9:32 pm, Thursday, May 30, 2013

Five Essential Retirement REITs



Have you ever wanted to own a piece of one of the most iconic buildings (and more than 18 other properties) in the world? Well, your dream has (almost) arrived. After decades of complicated, court-frequenting structuring and restructuring, New York's Empire State Building is officially on the path to IPO in the form of a real estate investment trust. It couldn't come at a better time, as many REITs have enjoyed substantial gains on the back of a recovering commercial and residential real estate scene. How is the deal structured, and should it appeal to income-seeking investors? Let's take a closer look and find out.

Some history

The Empire State Building, the tallest building in the world for 40 years, was chopped up into 3,300 pieces for the then not-so-mesly price of \$10,000 each in the 1960s. It was a relatively new practice at the time -- allowing people who didn't have the last name of Vanderbilt to buy into major real estate deals while giving building owners access to new sources of cash.

At the end of 2012, there were 2,824 unit owners in the building. Reuters reports that each of those original 3,300 could be worth \$320,000 today.

The current and longtime owners of the building, the Malkin family, have been pushing for an IPO since the middle of 2011. The move keeps the Malkins as the major owners of the building, but it allows smaller investors who would like to move on to get their cash and go. Of course, it hasn't been exactly smooth sailing.

Investors have argued in court that the deal is undervaluing their units. Those suits have failed, though, as Malkin reports that 80% of the investors have now voted in favor of an IPO, of which a date has yet to be set. Under a ridiculous forced-buyout provision upheld in the New York courts, investors can either go

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with the IPO or sell their units back to Malkin for \$100. It should be no surprise that most are willing to go through with the IPO.

A good deal?

More details need to emerge, such as IPO pricing, before we can really determine whether this is an attractive play for income-seeking investors. REITs in general have gotten pricey as investors rushed in over the past 12 months to ride the housing recovery and the comeback of commercial real estate. The Green Street Commercial Property Pricing Index shows prices one point ahead of their pre-recession highs.

Admittedly without too much supporting data, I am hesitant to advocate for investors to rush into this deal without taking a very close look. The Malkin family will be greatly enriched by the deal, netting more than \$700 million in paper gains once the IPO makes its debut. Out of the \$1 billion the offering is set to raise, \$672 million in cash would go to the Leona Helmsley estate.

The Empire State Building currently sits at under 70% occupancy and is in the midst of renovations to boost growth. Under a REIT structure, the building would be part of a more favorable structure, with tax benefits and public governance. For the long-term viability of the building and the others included, forming a REIT does make sense.

But it's the way this has been accomplished that tempts me to believe that this is a cash-raising ceremony for the major longtime holders, and a way to rid smaller shareholders of their stakes at discounted prices, who otherwise have a choice to take a check for \$100.

Keep looking

Investors are better off looking at some other, more intriguing REIT opportunities. Recently, I wrote about **CyrusOne**, a colocated data-center REIT that is growing fast and trading at a favorable valuation. The industry is set to grow well into the triple digits in the coming years, and CyrusOne's adjusted funds from operations have shown similar trends.

Another place to look, if a bit sinister, is **The GEO Group**. Recently restructured as a REIT, this prison contractor has a tremendous real estate portfolio and helps build, manage, and support prisons across the United States. The stock is up more than 60% in 12 months and pays an attractive 5.5% yield.

Let some more details emerge regarding the Empire State Realty Trust, and make sure you aren't just aiding some already very wealthy landowners to tack on a few more zeroes to their net worth.

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The article [Want to Own a Piece of the Empire State Building?](#) originally appeared on Fool.com.

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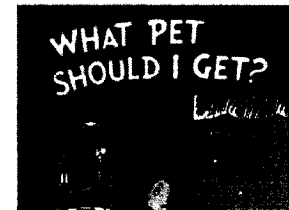
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SFGATE <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Empire-State-Building-s-investment-trust-raises-4860556.php>

Empire State Building's investment trust raises \$929.5 million in IPO

Bloomberg News Updated 6:47 pm, Tuesday, October 1, 2013



A full moon rises behind the Empire State Building in New York. Empire State Realty Trust, whose properties include the Empire State Building and buildings owned by Greenwich real estate magnates Anthony and Peter Malkin, raised \$929.5 million in an initial public offering priced on Tuesday.

Empire State Realty Trust, whose properties include Manhattan's Empire State Building, raised \$929.5 million in its initial public offering, pricing the shares at the low end of the range.

The real estate investment trust, based in New York, sold 71.5 million shares for \$13 each, excluding the overallotment option, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It offered them for \$13 to \$15. The shares will start trading Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ESRT.

The sale culminates an almost two-year quest by the Empire State Building's supervisors, Peter Malkin and his son Anthony Malkin, of Greenwich, to take Manhattan's signature skyscraper and 20 other New York-area properties public, a process marked by battles with some of the

tower's longtime investors. While rising interest rates are now tempering demand for real estate office companies have performed better than U.S. REITs in general.

"The climate isn't ideal, but if you're going to do a REIT IPO, being in the office space is probably a better place to be than apartments or health care, based on where those stocks have moved of late," said Jeffrey Langbaum, a Bloomberg Industries analyst. "And if you're going to be in the office space, New York is a better place to be than the broader market."

The Bloomberg REIT Index dropped 14 percent after a recent peak on May 21, while a narrower gauge of office-property trusts lost 9.7 percent.

Empire State Realty joins such competitors as SL Green Realty, Vornado Realty Trust and Boston Properties as REITs with large Manhattan office portfolios. It has 5.9 million square feet in New York, making it the smallest of the city's publicly traded office landlords, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The company also controls six retail properties in Manhattan and Westport, Connecticut, and five office buildings north of the city.

At the midpoint of the range set last month, the stock would trade at about a 12 percent discount to value of its buildings excluding debt, Green Street Advisors said in a report. Office REITs on average are trading at about 2 percent less than the value of their assets, while Boston Properties is at about a 2 percent premium, according to the research firm. Empire State Realty's discount is similar to that of Edison, New Jersey-based Mack-Cali Realty Corp., which specializes in suburban offices in the northeast.

Investors aren't sure how to value the cash flow from the Empire State Building's observatory, a tourist magnet, and how much they should pay for potential leasing gains among the office buildings, said Michael Knott, an analyst with Newport Beach, Calif.-based Green Street.

The company's offices are about 84 percent leased, compared with New York-area occupancy rates of 92 percent for SL Green, 96 percent for Vornado and 95 percent for Boston Properties according to Green Street.

"If you believe that they can fill that up, that's a source of growth that doesn't exist with these other portfolios," Knott said.

Revenue has more than doubled on space that has been renovated in the 82-year-old Empire State Building, a cause for optimism among investors, he said.

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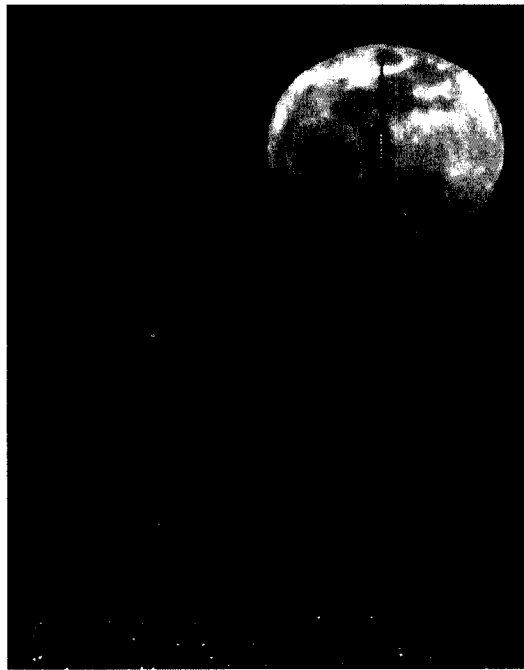
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Empire State Building's investment trust raises \$929.5 million in IPO

Bloomberg News

Updated 9:47 pm, Tuesday, October 1, 2013



A full moon rises behind the Empire State Building in New York. Empire State Realty Trust, whose properties include the Empire State Building and buildings owned by Greenwich real estate magnates Anthony and Peter Malkin, raised \$929.5 million in an initial public offering priced on Tuesday. (Julio Cortez, Associated Press / Associated Press)



Empire State Realty Trust, whose properties include Manhattan's Empire State Building, raised \$929.5 million in its initial public offering, pricing the shares at the low end of the range.

The real estate investment trust, based in New York, sold 71.5 million shares for \$13 each, excluding the overallotment option, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It offered them for \$13 to \$15. The shares will start trading Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ESRT.

The sale culminates an almost two-year quest by the Empire State Building's supervisors, Peter Malkin and his son Anthony Malkin, of Greenwich, to take Manhattan's signature

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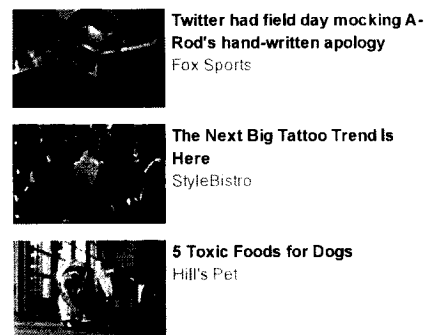
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▷ skyscraper and 20 other New York-area properties public, a process marked by battles with some of the tower's longtime investors. While rising interest rates are now tempering demand for real estate, office companies have performed better than U.S. REITs in general.

"The climate isn't ideal, but if you're going to do a REIT IPO, being in the office space is probably a better place to be than apartments or health care, based on where those stocks have moved of late," said Jeffrey Langbaum, a Bloomberg Industries analyst. "And if you're going to be in the office space, New York is a better place to be than the broader market."

The Bloomberg REIT Index dropped 14 percent after a recent peak on May 21, while a narrower gauge of office-property trusts lost 9.7 percent.

Empire State Realty joins such competitors as SL Green Realty, Vornado Realty Trust and Boston Properties as REITs with large Manhattan office portfolios. It has 5.9 million square feet in New York, making it the smallest of the city's publicly traded office landlords, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The company also controls six retail properties in Manhattan and Westport, Connecticut, and five office buildings north of the city.

At the midpoint of the range set last month, the stock would trade at about a 12 percent discount to value of its buildings excluding debt, Green Street Advisors said in a report. Office REITs on average are trading at about 2 percent less than the value of their assets, while Boston Properties is at about a 2 percent premium, according to the research firm. Empire State Realty's discount is similar to that of Edison, New Jersey-based Mack-Cali Realty Corp., which specializes in suburban offices in the northeast.

Investors aren't sure how to value the cash flow from the Empire State Building's observatory, a tourist magnet, and how much they should pay for potential leasing gains among the office buildings, said Michael Knott, an analyst with Newport Beach, Calif.-based Green Street.

The company's offices are about 84 percent leased, compared with New York-area occupancy rates of 92 percent for SL Green, 96 percent for Vornado and 95 percent for Boston Properties, according to Green Street.

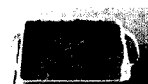
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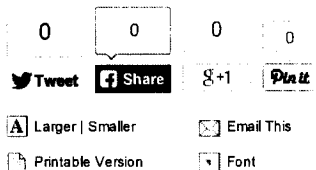
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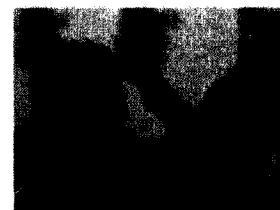


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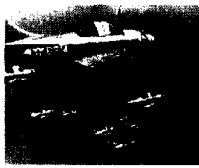
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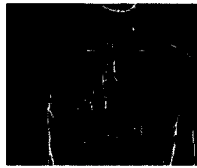
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Empire State Realty shares edge higher following IPO

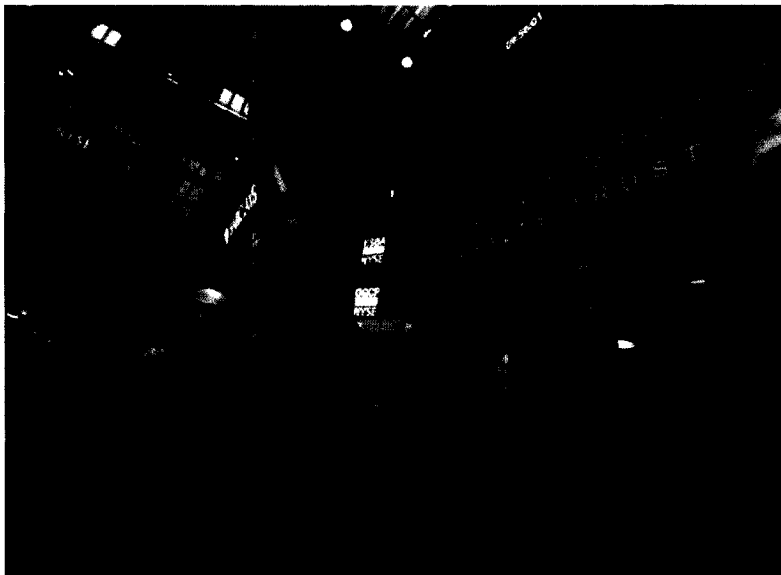
Company that owns Empire State Building raises \$754.4 million

Associated Press

Published 6:05 pm, Wednesday, October 2, 2013

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Chairman, CEO and President Anthony Malkin, foreground left, of Empire State Realty Trust, and Chairman Emeritus Peter Malkin, background left, applaud as their company's stock begins trading during its IPO on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013. Empire State Realty Trust Inc., the real estate investment trust behind the Empire State Building, also manages other office buildings in the New York City area. (AP Photo/Richard Drew) ORG XMIT: NYRD101



New York

Shares of Empire State Realty Trust gained in Wednesday trading after the company's initial public offering raised about \$754 million.

The real estate investment trust owns the Empire State Building and 11 other office properties in New York and Connecticut. It sold 71.5 million shares for \$13 per share, which was at the low end of its prior estimate.

Empire State Realty Trust Inc. said it raised \$754.4 million after expenses, commissions, and discounts.

The stock gained 10 cents to close Wednesday at \$13.10. It is listed on the New York Stock



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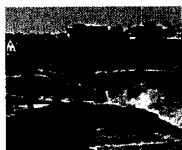
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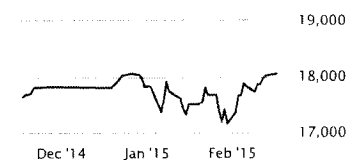
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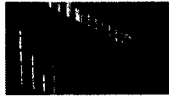
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Empire State Realty Trust ticks up slightly on first day of trading

Tim Loh

Updated 9:29 pm, Wednesday, October 2, 2013



Anthony Malkin, flashing a wide smile Wednesday morning after helping ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, offered a host of reasons why investors should turn excited eyes toward his newly public portfolio of properties.

"We have a big opportunity with regard to our occupancy and our performance with rents, I think our filings speak for themselves," he told reporter Betty Liu from Bloomberg TV.

"The most important thing is the reception we've gotten," Malkin said. "It's a very big IPO. It's a very big day. With everything else going on in the world today, for us to have this kind of success, we're thrilled."

The \$929.5 million IPO -- the second-largest ever for a real estate investment trust -- capped off well over a year of effort to take the Empire State Building public as part of a REIT that includes 18 other properties in New York City, Westchester and Fairfield counties.

For Anthony and his father Peter Malkin, who live in Greenwich, the process has been fraught with hurdles that include sustained opposition from a minority of the 2,800 or so Empire State Building stakeholders, legal challenges and an array of private bids for the biggest buildings in recent months.

There is still an appeal pending to a legal victory by the Malkins over the way they secured approval from the Empire State Building stakeholders to take the building public.

Ultimately, the shares appeared on the NYSE Wednesday morning at \$13 a share, the lower end of the \$13 to \$15 dollar price range they had targeted for the 71.5 million shares.

The shares quickly jumped to \$13.49 by 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, but then settled back down to



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about \$13.10 per share, about 1 percent growth.

Mixed expectations

Heading into Wednesday, observers like Barry Vinocur, editor of REIT Zone Publishers, and analysts for the real estate research firm Green Street Advisors highlighted three main concerns investors had about the REIT:

First, nearly 30 percent of Empire State Realty's revenue comes from the observation deck atop the Empire State Building, a solid but rather uncommon -- and hence risky -- stream of revenue in the market. Moreover, that could take a hit when the observation deck atop 1 World Trade Center opens in coming years.

Second, much of the 8.4 million square feet in rentable office space is in prewar buildings. The portfolio is also only about 84 percent leased, which could represent a source of future growth, but could also be seen as risky.

Finally, the Malkin family maintains about 25 percent voting stake in the company, raising fears in some investors that their managerial motives will conflict with the best interests of investors. In fact, Anthony Malkin is the chairman and CEO of Empire State Realty Trust; Peter Malkin is the chairman emeritus.

Even so, the demand for the IPO was pretty high, Vinocur said.

"Anytime you sell 71.5 million shares, there's got to be a lot of demand," Vinocur said. "It was not a deal where people held their noses and said, 'This is a stinker.'"

This all took place against an unfavorable backdrop. Since May, the Bloomberg REIT index has dropped 14 percent. But there is still strong investor demand for good quality New York real estate, said Green Street analyst Jed Reagan. Manhattan office building values have remained strong despite the hiccup in interest rates, he said.

Reagan was not surprised with the REIT's stock performance Wednesday.

"We think where it did price makes an attractive entry point for investors," he said. "The current pricing reflects the risks that are out there and public markets still trying to get comfortable with them."

Long road

The path to this point has been long. This past May, the Malkins -- who enjoyed a minority, but controlling stake in the Empire State Building -- succeeded in a yearlong quest to persuade over 80 percent of the building's stakeholders to approve plans for the REIT, a supermajority required by contract. Holdouts had 10 days to change their vote or forfeit their units -- the value of which has been estimated at \$320,000 each -- in exchange for \$100. That's the source of the pending legal challenge.

The local properties include the sleek First Stamford Place, the Stamford Metro Center (the Thomson Reuters building), a nearby downtown Stamford construction site, the MerrittView office park in Norwalk and a line of retail properties on Westport's Main Street.

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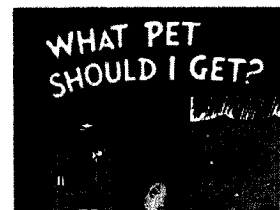


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SFGATE <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/New-lights-atop-Empire-State-Building-debut-4940360.php>

New lights atop Empire State Building debut Halloween night

Tim Loh Updated 6:44 pm, Wednesday, October 30, 2013

The Yankees and Mets may be out of the playoffs, but it's still been a home run of an October for Empire State Building enthusiasts.

Four weeks ago, the iconic skyscraper went public as part of Empire State Realty Trust, a \$929.1 million IPO and the second-largest real estate investment trust ever. The ESRT stock -- which includes a handful of Fairfield County properties -- has since climbed 7 percent to \$13.95 as of 4 p.m. Wednesday, from \$13.

On Thursday night, the tower will unveil its latest look: some 200 feet of new LED lighting capabilities up and down the 1,400-foot-high antenna.

"A special surprise and gift to New York City and the world," read a statement by ESRT on Wednesday.

The lights will debut in a Halloween-themed LED show at 8:30 p.m. It's being choreographed by Marc Brickman, an internationally acclaimed lighting designer, according to the statement.

An accompanying soundtrack to be aired on Clear Channel Media and Entertainment radio stations Z100 (100.3 FM) and KTU (103.5 FM), will include such Halloween hits as "Monster Mash," "Ghostbusters" and "Somebody's Watching Me," according to the release.

The show can be watched live on the Empire State Building's YouTube page: www.youtube.com/esbnyc.

The plan, according to the release, is to "extend and amplify the entire tower from choreographed light shows to daily lightings with the same effects and 16 million colors as the other tiers of the tower."

Of course, the IPO seemed more trick than treat for a minority of the 2,800 or so erstwhile stakeholders in the 102-story tower.

But over the past year, Greenwich residents and father-son duo Peter and Anthony Malkin -- respectively chairman emeritus, and chairman/CEO of ESRT -- succeeded in their quest to put the building at the heart of the publicly traded REIT.

Social media enthusiasts are being asked to use a festive hashtag when discussing the show online Thursday night: #ESBoo

tloh@scni.com; twitter.com/timloh; 203-625-4411

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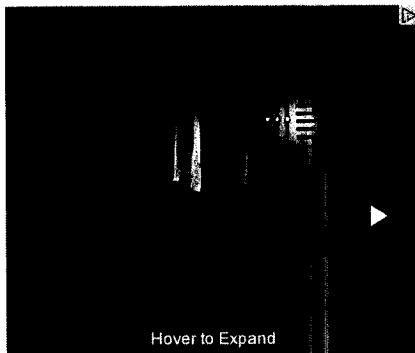
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New lights atop Empire State Building debut Halloween night

Tim Loh
Updated 9:44 pm, Wednesday, October 30, 2013



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Watching Me," according to the release.

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The Yankees and Mets may be out of the playoffs, but it's still been a home run of an October for Empire State Building enthusiasts.


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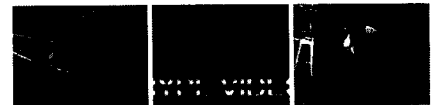
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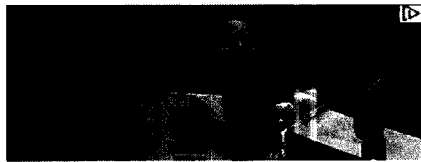
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BY BETH BUCZYNSKI / EDITOR'S PICK FEATURED GREEN BUILDING /

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The **Empire State Building** has been an American icon for generations. Now, thanks to a \$20 million award-winning energy retrofit project that was announced in April 2009, it's quickly becoming a sustainability icon as well.

Upon completion of the program, upgrades to the Empire State Building will reduce total **energy consumption** by more than 38 percent, energy costs by \$4.4 million annually, and carbon emissions by 105,000 metric tons over the next 15 years, according to the owners. To chronicle this important process, a **sustainability exhibit** was opened in the building's second floor Visitor's Center in 2010. Recently, the exhibit unveiled numerous audio-visual enhancements to the interactive, multi-media installation, making it even more exciting for visitors to learn how the building is going green.

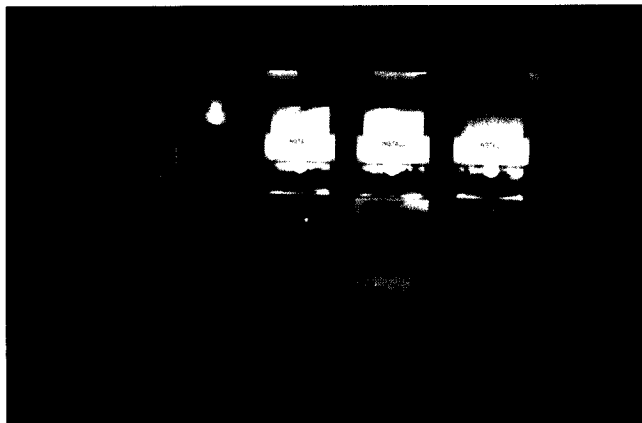


Image via [Empire State Building](#)

The sustainability exhibit is meant to tell the story of the Empire State Building's retrofit program. Through the exhibit's exciting displays, the building's millions of annual visitors are educated about the positive global impact of both energy efficient building and sustainable living practices.

The exhibit space was recently enhanced with updated features such as ambient lighting, high-quality sound effects and improved visitor traffic flow. "Specific changes include the addition of metallic industrial curtains to isolate each experience, creating a more modern feel and easing visitor movement through the different exhibits, as well as accent **lighting** which enriches each section and creates a more cerebral and enjoyable visitor experience," explains a press release.

"Each display is also augmented with audio enhancements tailored to the retrofit video displayed on the screen. Sounds such as running water through the pipes of the chiller plant or the hum of the city were incorporated to immerse the visitor in the ESB retrofit story and create a full sensory event."




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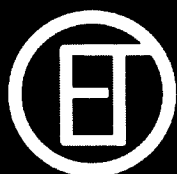
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Lofty Bids Emerge for a Piece of New York's Skyline



Gary Hershorn/Reuters

The skyline of New York from Hoboken. The Empire State Building may soon be part of an I.P.O.

By JULIE CRESWELL and CHARLES V. BAGLI

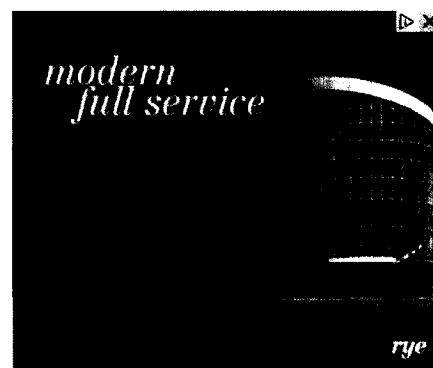
Published: September 17, 2013

After months of contentious behind-the-scenes battles, the public may finally get its chance to own a piece of a New York City landmark — the Empire State Building.

The real estate family that controls the 102-story Art Deco tower could move ahead as soon as this week with plans to sell shares to the public through a real estate investment trust, or REIT. It could be one of the largest initial public offerings ever of such a trust, in a deal valued at more than \$5 billion.

But even as Malkin Holdings races forward with the planned offering, which includes the iconic tower and 18 other office properties it operates in New York City and in Stamford, Conn., prospective buyers for the Empire State Building continue to come out of the woodwork.

Last week, Joseph Sitt, a New York City landlord, increased his earlier bid. His company, Thor Equities, is now proposing to buy Empire State Building Associates, which owns the land, the building and the lease, for \$1.4 billion in cash. That tops Mr. Sitt's offer from earlier this summer, and is higher than the \$1.18 billion that the entity is valued at as part of the REIT.



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"Seeing as this new offer came in above both the appraised and exchange values in the proposed REIT, that leads me to believe they are taking it very seriously," said Jason Meister, an investment broker with Avison Young who represents Thor Equities.

The offer by Mr. Sitt is the latest in a string of unsolicited bids that have been rebuffed by Peter L. Malkin and his son, Anthony E. Malkin, who contend that their plan, which has already been approved by stakeholders, is more valuable. Furthermore, most, if not all, of the bidders have had communications with Richard Edelman, a stakeholder in the Empire State Building who has led a group of dissidents opposed to the planned REIT.

That has led to questions about whether the offers for the building are real or just attempts to derail the initial public offering. One of the "bids" was made on a single sheet of paper and provided no information about where the buyer would find the money to finance the building's purchase. Additionally, Mr. Meister, who represents Mr. Sitt at Thor, is the son of Stephen Meister, a lawyer representing some of the dissident shareholders.

This should be a chill-the-Champagne moment for the Malkins. Family members, who are minority owners of the building, have already won several crucial rounds in a long-running battle with dissident stakeholders. With the public offering, the Malkins would be catapulted into the upper echelons of Manhattan real estate — their stake could be valued at an estimated \$730 million and provide other legal and tax benefits. Anthony Malkin would become chairman of a new company, Empire State Realty Trust.

In 1961, 3,300 units in the building were sold to stakeholders at \$10,000 a unit, with some individuals buying multiple units. After about a year of back-and-forth, the Malkins early this summer persuaded the required 80 percent of the building's roughly 3,000 stakeholders to vote in favor of going public.

While the Malkins still face a few remaining hurdles in their fight with the dissidents, including a court ruling expected this fall on whether a judge's ruling on New York's limited liability corporation laws was legal, they are pressing ahead with their plan for a public offering.

A spokesman for the Malkins did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

There are also questions swirling around demand for a REIT featuring the Empire State Building as one of its cornerstones. While some investors will probably be drawn to the romantic notion of owning a piece of the fabled skyscraper, some analysts note that the building and several of the other properties included in the REIT are not viewed as modern, first-class office buildings. In recent years, the Malkins have embarked on a major renovation of the Empire State Building that is drawing a better, more corporate class of tenants and yielding higher rents.

But the once-hot market for real estate investment trusts has cooled considerably since this spring. A Bloomberg index of office REITS is down 10.5 percent since hitting a four-and-a-half-year high in late May.

"REITs did extremely well early in the year, but share prices have pulled back since May," said Michael Knott, a managing director with real estate research firm Green Street Advisors. He said, however, that New York office REITs have held up better than those in other parts of the country, in the belief that Manhattan real estate has stabilized.

While some of the bidders hope that the wobbly REIT market has opened the door for them to sweep in with a competing offer, analysts say the bids, so far, appear to be falling short. "The offers don't appear high enough to persuade the Malkins to change direction," Mr. Knott said.

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: September 18, 2013

An earlier version of this article identified incorrectly Jason Meister's profession. He is an



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A version of this article appears in print on September 18, 2013, on page B1 of the New York edition with the headline: Lofty Bids For Piece Of Skyline.

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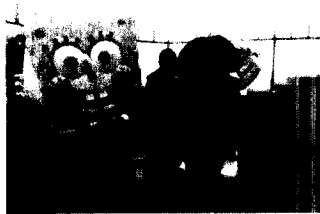
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DAILY DISH

Nick Cannon lights up Empire State Building

By Daily Dish on September 17, 2013 1:58 PM



NICK CANNON LIGHTS THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING ORANGE IN HONOR OF NICKELODEON'S 10TH ANNUAL WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY
(Photo by Craig Barritt/Getty Images for Nickelodeon)

Nick Cannon turned the lights of New York's Empire State Building orange to celebrate the Worldwide Day of Play on Monday.

Cannon, who is married to Mariah Carey, joined children's characters SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer to mark the 10th anniversary of the Nickelodeon event.

The Day of Play, which takes place on Saturday, is aimed at encouraging an active lifestyle by getting kids to play outside. Nickelodeon bosses are set to suspend programming on all its TV channels for three hours to promote the healthy living campaign.

Categories: Nick Cannon

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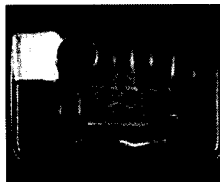
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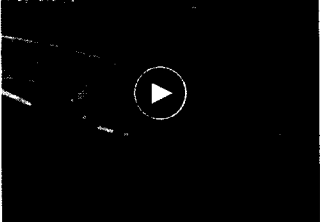
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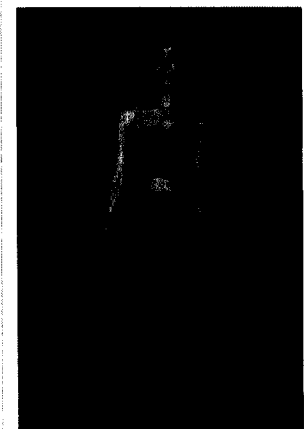
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Want to own a piece of the Empire State Building? Here's your chance


 REUTERS | September 18, 2013 8:27 AM ET
 More from Reuters


The family that controls the Empire State Building plans to kick off a formal roadshow to sell the iconic tower as early as this week by offering shares in a real estate investment trust (REIT), a person familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

The building and its investors are managed by Malkin Holdings, which is spearheading the initial public offering and hopes to price the offering as early as the first week of October through lead underwriters Bank of America Corp and Goldman Sachs Group Inc, The Wall Street Journal reported earlier in the day.

The landmark tower, the world's tallest from its completion in 1931 until 1972, is to be rolled out as a REIT, called Empire State Realty Trust Inc, and is expected to raise about \$1 billion in proceeds from an IPO.

The Malkin family is hoping to sell the trust at a yield of 5 percent to 5.5 percent, according to the Journal, which cited one person who discussed the offering with the family.

Sources familiar with the matter told Reuters earlier this month that one of New York City's biggest landlords, Thor Equities LLC, had raised its offer to buy the Empire State Building to \$14 billion in cash, hoping to trump the plan to roll the landmark property into a trust.

The sale would be an alternative to the REIT, which already has the approval of nearly all the investors in the building.

The Empire State Building is a major tourist attraction, known for its Art Deco tower and light display at night.

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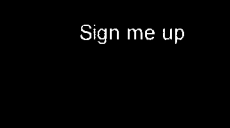
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Empire State Building REIT seeks more than \$1 billion in IPO

Bloomberg News Published 3:59 pm, Friday, September 20, 2013

Empire State Realty Trust, whose properties include Manhattan's Empire State Building, filed to raise as much as \$1.07 billion as it proceeds with one of the largest initial public offerings of a U.S. real estate investment trust.

The company, based in New York, plans to offer 71.5 million shares for \$13 to \$15 each, according to a regulatory filing Thursday. It expects to list on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ESRT."

Malkin Holdings, supervisor of the Empire State Building, is moving ahead with the IPO after battling a group of dissident investors and rejecting a set of unsolicited offers for the tower. The REIT, which holds 21 New York-area properties, may be attractive to investors as it benefits from tenant demand, tourist visits to the landmark skyscraper and its holdings in prime Manhattan office locations, said Michael Knott, an analyst with research firm Green Street Advisors.

"It would offer public investors a unique way to play the New York market," Knott, based in Newport Beach, Calif., said in an interview before the filing. In addition to revenue from the Empire State Building's observatory, the company has the potential to significantly boost leasing and has a concentration in the "up-and-coming" Times Square South neighborhood, he said.

The IPO is scheduled to price Oct. 1, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, led by Goldman Sachs Group and Bank of America.

Investor approval

Malkin Holdings initially filed for a share sale 19 months ago. The firm, led by Chairman Peter Malkin, a Greenwich resident, and his son, Anthony Malkin, also of Greenwich, faced challenge by a minority group within the roughly 2,800 investors who hold stakes in the Empire State Building. After an emotional campaign marked by charges of misrepresentation by both sides, the Malkins in May received the necessary approvals from investors to allow the tower to be rolled into the REIT.

Empire State Realty Trust's portfolio includes seven Manhattan office properties, among them the Empire State Building, 1 Grand Central Place, and 250 West 57th St., known as the Fisk Building. There are five office properties north of the city, including First Stamford Place in

Stamford, and 10 Bank St. in White Plains, N.Y.

Observatory revenue

There are six standalone retail properties, including 10 Union Square in Manhattan and two retail centers in Westport. The proposed REIT also has a development site in Stamford and options to buy two more Manhattan office buildings.

Bidders for the landmark Empire State Building have tried to upend the IPO. On Sept. 9, Joseph Sitt's Thor Equities offered \$1.4 billion for the title to the 102-story tower, according to a letter from Stephen Meister, an attorney representing the dissidents. The offer was more than the \$1.18 billion value allocated to the company, Empire State Building Associates, which owns the skyscraper, Meister said in a letter to the Malkins' attorney.

The Malkins said in a separate filing Thursday that the latest bid would offer "materially less" value to investors because of debt and other obligations. It won't entertain any more alternative to the IPO, the company said.

The Malkins already said earlier this month that they would proceed with the plan to go public after reviewing other proposals and determining that an IPO is in investors' best interest. In addition to the unsolicited offer for the tower from Sitt, the Malkins received one from investor Rubin Schron and a joint bid by Philip Pilevsky and Joseph Tabak.

Pilevsky, whose group also included unnamed Middle Eastern investors, said he is no longer pursuing his bid after being rebuffed by the Malkins.

He said his group was willing to raise its offer of \$2.1 billion, which included the value attributed to a sublease to a company majority-owned by the estate of Leona Helmsley.

"They seem to want to do their IPO, and they don't care what the bid is," he said in an interview Sept. 18. "We dropped the effort. If they would do it, we'd do it in a minute."

Hugh Burns, a spokesman for the Malkins with Sard Verbinnen, declined to comment. The family said in its filing that it reviews "all matters," including unsolicited proposals, and that Lazard acted as an independent adviser in determining to pursue the IPO.

The "Sturm und Drang" between dissidents and the Malkins may concern investors, as may litigation, said Green Street's Knott. A small group of unitholders has appealed an April 30 ruling upholding a provision that would pay unitholders a nominal \$100 a share if they refused to back the REIT after 80 percent voted for it, which they called coercive.

A reversal "could have a material adverse effect on us, which could take the form of monetary damages or other equitable relief," the company said in its prospectus.

At the top end of the range, the IPO would be the biggest for a U.S. REIT after Douglas Emmett raised almost \$1.6 billion in 2006, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It comes after a drop in real estate shares in recent months amid speculation that rising interest rates may curb property demand. The 138-member Bloomberg REIT Index lost more than 11 percent through Thursday since peaking in May.

Anthony Malkin, who is to become the REIT's chairman, chief executive officer and president, is expected to own Class A common shares with a value of \$413.7 million based on the midpoint of the projected price range, according to the prospectus. Peter Malkin, to be chairman emeritus, would have shares valued at \$84.1 million.

The Empire State Building generated 47.1 percent of the REIT's pro-forma revenue of \$511.2 million last year. The observatory, a magnet for Manhattan tourists, accounted for \$92.2 million of that. That probably can only be improved "modestly," while office revenue should jump as space is leased after a renovation, Knott said.

The office portion of the tower was 78 percent leased as of June 30, according to the REIT prospectus. That's up from 67 percent as of the end of last September.

"The 20 or so floors they have finished renovations on, they've increased the revenues on by almost 110 percent," Knott said. "The early results there are encouraging, and speak to the progress they have made in executing the repositioning."

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Hine's photos document rise of Empire State Building

Phyllis A.S. Boros

Published 5:16 pm, Tuesday, September 24, 2013

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Lewis Hine's "Man on a Hoisting Ball/Empire State Building" is one of many breathtaking images on view in a new exhibit at Fairfield University. (Contributed Photo)



In post offices throughout America, one of the hottest new sheets of "Forever" stamps celebrates workers of the early 20th century, many of whom risked their lives daily in the name of progress.

The black-and-white stamps in the series, "Made in America/Building a Nation," are tiny, but nonetheless dramatic. Many were captured by photographer Lewis Hine (1874-1940), who devoted much of his life to documenting the

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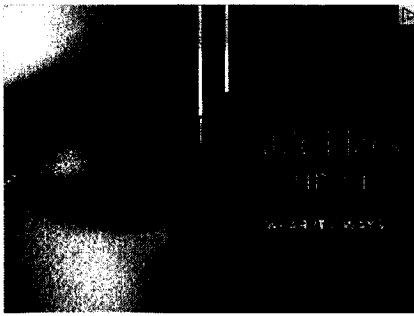


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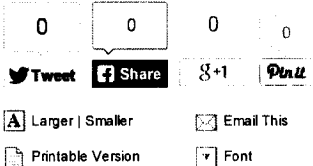
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courage, tenacity and perseverance of the country's labor force.

If you are one of the countless Americans who admire these stamps, chances are that you will be wild about Fairfield University's new exhibition, which offers an up-close view of Hine's breathtaking photographs through Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery.

"The Rise of a Landmark: Lewis Hine and the Empire State Building" -- an exhibition of 51 large-scale photographs from 1930-31 -- traces the development of this American symbol as it was taking shape in midtown Manhattan during the Great Depression.

Organized by the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, in Rochester, N.Y., the collection is a jaw-dropper, with many photos taken by Hine at dizzying heights capable of making the driest of palms rather moist, noted Dr. Jill Deupi, director and chief curator of university museums.

On a recent tour of the show, Deupi pointed out that "more than an art form," Hine used his keen eye (and Graflex camera) to create images that promoted social welfare causes by "exposing prejudice, marginalization and

exploitation" of child laborers, immigrants and the working poor throughout his career.

According to Deupi, Hine referred to his Empire State Building images as "work portraits ... a nod to his steadfast desire to capture character" rather than focusing only on architect William F. Lamb's Art Deco design.

"Indeed the nearly 1,000 exposures he took of the mammoth skyscraper as it rose wondrously from the ground are as much about the men who created it, as the impressive structure itself," Deupi writes in the exhibition brochure.

"In this, Hine was demonstrating his commitment to memorializing mankind's capacity for 'productive' energy (Hine's term), interwoven with an innuendo of moral judgments and social imperatives," she writes.

According to Deupi, Hine documented the Empire State Building's construction to its completion in 1931 as the then-world's tallest skyscraper at 102 stories.

Hine's photographs (often taken while wearing a safety harness) explore the various aspects of working on a skyscraper, those of bricklayers, riveters, machinists, iron workers, welders, drillers, plumbers, steel workers, carpenters and hoist engineers among them -- many dangling, hanging or balancing 1,000 feet or more above Fifth Avenue.

"The photos are beautiful, certainly, with the interplay of black and white, light and shadow. And they're exciting and dynamic, which is why we believe this exhibition will be especially engaging to the general public," Deupi said.

Often called the "father of documentary photography," Hine also became known for his portfolios on Ellis Island and on European survivors of World War I, and his commissions from such investigatory groups as the National Child Labor Committee, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the American Red Cross. In addition to his work as photographer, Hine taught botany and nature studies at New York City's Ethical Culture School from 1901 until 1908.

Photographs in the "Empire" exhibition are modern gelatin silver prints made from copy



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Review: Teen comedy 'DUFF' gives genre a social media spin

negatives, printed by Barbara Galasso, of Eastman House.

On the calendar

In conjunction with the show, a lunch-time gallery talk and tour, "Lewis Hine in Context," will be presented by Lauren Cesiro, adjunct professor of art history, on Thursday, Oct. 17. The hour-long free event will begin at noon.

pasboros@ctpost.com; Twitter: @PhyllisASBoros

Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery, at Fairfield University's Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, 200 Barlow Road, Fairfield. Free. Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and 30 minutes before and after each Quick Center event. 203-254-4062, www.fairfield.edu/walsh

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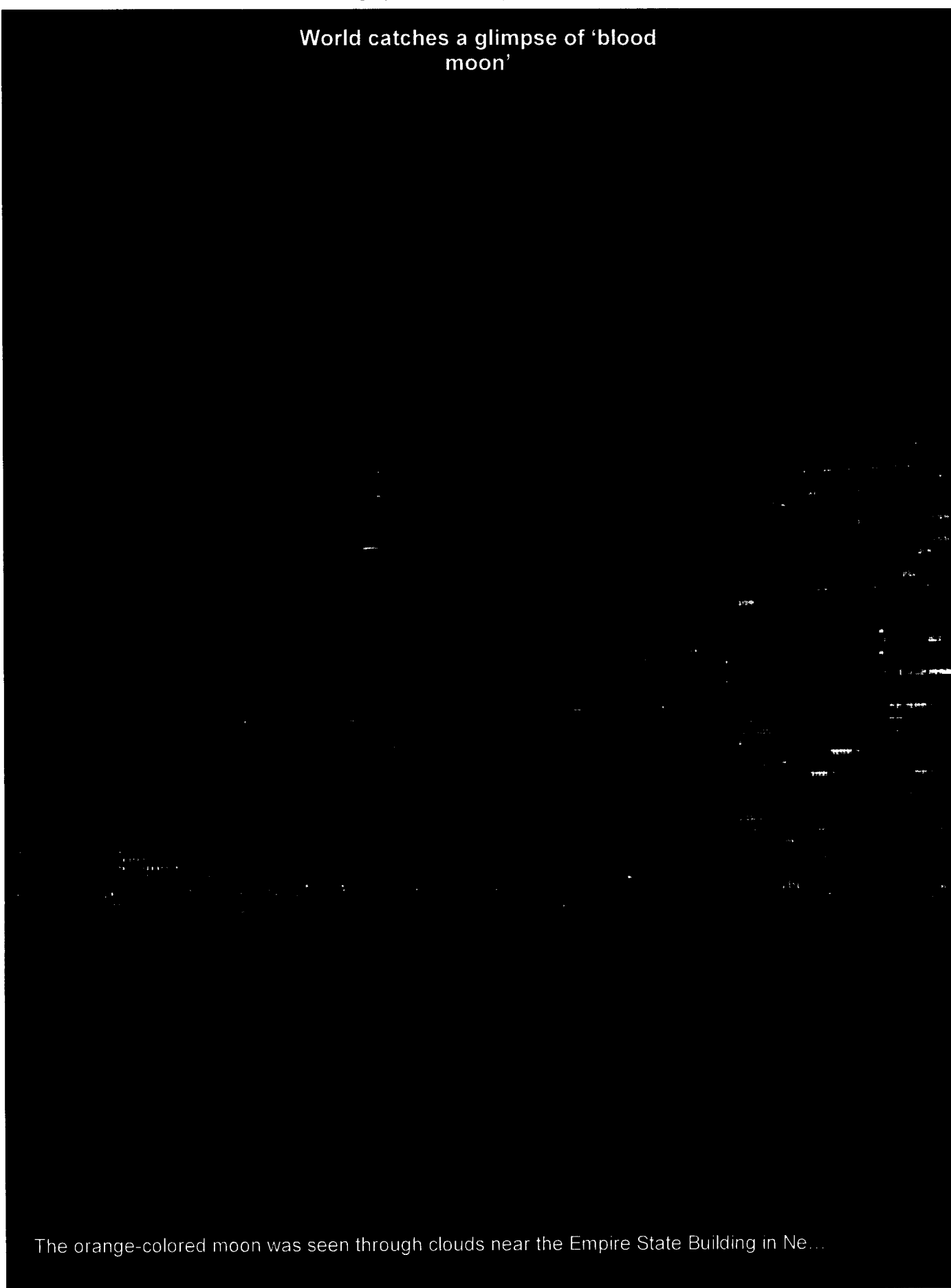
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The orange-colored moon was seen through clouds near the Empire State Building in Ne...

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Empire State Building Lit In Blue For Fallen NYPD Officers

The Huffington Post | By Andrew Hart

Posted: 12/27/2014 10:40 pm EST | Updated: 12/27/2014 10:59 pm EST


ABC News

TV Network · 5,262,939 Likes · December 27, 2014 ·

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Empire State Building in NYC lit in blue with rotating red siren Saturday in honor of slain NYPD Ofcs Ramos and Liu -- WATCH.

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The Empire State Building was lit in blue with a rotating red siren on Saturday night, in honor of the two NYPD officers that were murdered on Dec. 20.

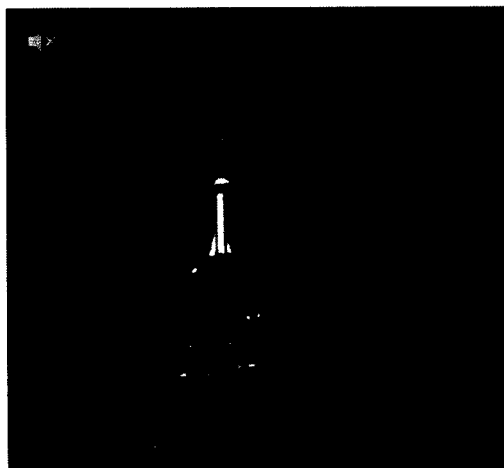
**Oliver Darcy**

@olivedarcy

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Here's video of the Empire State Building glowing blue with a moving siren at the top vine.co/v/OH0ma6x59Zr

8:26 PM · 27 Dec 2014



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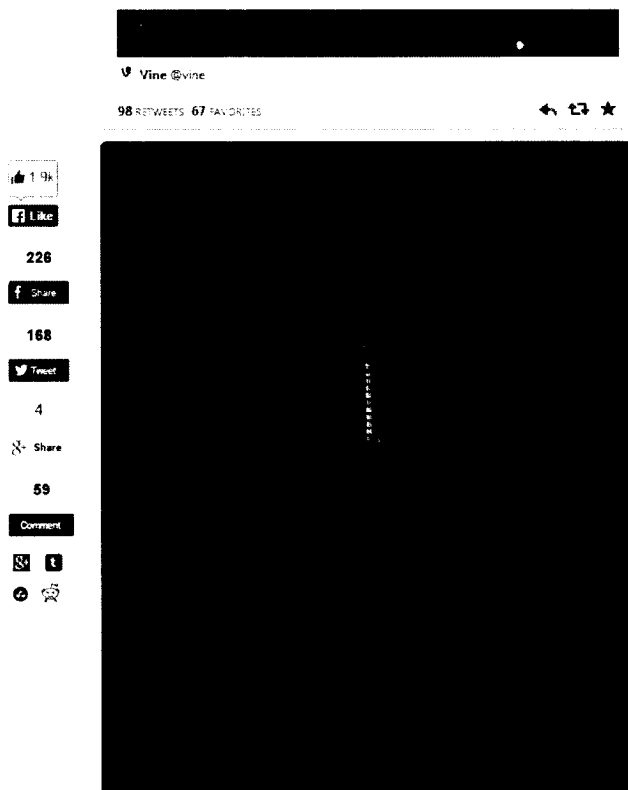
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Empire State Bldg

@EmpireStateBldg

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Our tower is lit in blue with a siren mast to honor fallen @NYPDnews Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

4:00 PM · 27 Dec 2014 · Commissioner Bratton and 2 others

997 RETWEETS 1,056 FAVORITES

The top tiers were basked in blue light, and the building's spire was cast in rotating red and white, imitating a police siren.

Empire State Bldg

@EmpireLights

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Tonight's colors: All tiers blue with a siren in the halo (In honor of slain #NYPD Officers Wenjian Liu & Rafael Ramos) #RIP @answerthecall

3:38 PM · 27 Dec 2014

24 RETWEETS 21 FAVORITES

Last Saturday, New York Police Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were shot dead by gunman Ismaaiyl Brinsley, while sitting in their patrol in Brooklyn. Brinsley fled into a nearby subway station, where he killed himself. The murder of Ramos and Liu shocked the entire nation, prompting an outpouring of support for police officers, at a time when the nation is also protesting acts of violence used by police.

In a funeral attended by tens of thousands held on Saturday, Officer Ramos was mourned by police officers from around the country, political figures, social activists, and citizens.

MORE: Empire State Building, Empire State Building Blue, Empire State Building Nypd, Empire State Building Blue Lights Police Officers, NYPD, Empire State Building Ramos Liu, Officer Ramos Liu, Nypd Officers Killed, Nypd Officers Dead, Nypd Ramos, New York Police Officers Empire State Building

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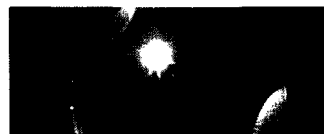
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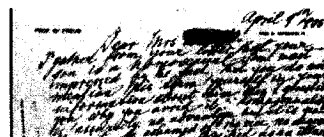
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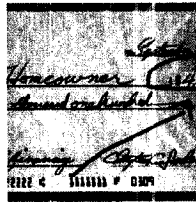
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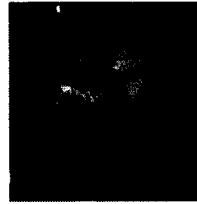
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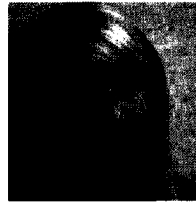
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
How beautiful goes to show how important it is for the NYPD taking on a dangerous job on behalf of a grateful city!

Reply Like  22 December 28, 2014 at 12:39am



Mark Franklin ★ Top Commenter Owner at Self-Employed

You wouldn't be very grateful if you were a black parent, living in constant fear that your children could be gunned down just for "being black" by the cowards in blue.

Reply Like  6 December 28, 2014 at 8:10am



John Carlo Brunetti Brooklyn College


Not my point but I respect your opinion.

Reply Like December 28, 2014 at 11:15am



Maurice Sinnett ★ Top Commenter Works at Retired

Absolutely, like a person selling cigarettes. Gotta watch out for those hardened criminals.


Reply Like  1 December 28, 2014 at 12:40pm

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Kendall Rhodes ★ Top Commenter Denver, Colorado


Wonder what color they'll light the building for all of the innocent people murdered annually by the NYPD?

Reply Like  14 December 28, 2014 at 6:06am



Maurice Sinnett ★ Top Commenter Works at Retired

They won't, they don't think those lives matter. What a shame.

Reply Like  3 December 28, 2014 at 12:35pm



Renee Anderson ★ Top Commenter Unit Secretary at St. Louis Children's Hospital Cardinal Glennon

RED!


Reply Like December 29, 2014 at 7:29am

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Dakota Cortez ★ Top Commenter


Any line of duty death for police or fire is a big deal and always has been.

Reply Like  10 December 28, 2014 at 1:26am



Chris Metzger ★ Top Commenter Multi-Skilled Technician at Mount Carmel West Hospital

I don't want to diminish the deaths of these officers, but how come the people murdered by members of the NYPD don't get anything like this?

Reply Like  8 December 28, 2014 at 6:09am



Chris Metzger ★ Top Commenter Multi-Skilled Technician at Mount Carmel West Hospital

Except that they do. Have you not been paying attention?

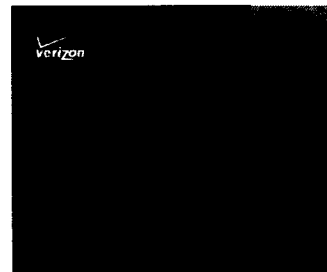
Reply Like December 29, 2014 at 7:27am



Renee Anderson ★ Top Commenter Unit Secretary at St. Louis Children's Hospital Cardinal Glennon

Mickey Mouse! Is that you?

Reply Like December 29, 2014 at 7:40am



[View 2 more](#)**Marc Monzeglio** ★ Top Commenter

Officers shouldn't get confused...this is for the fallen, not the knuckleheads that choke people or turn their backs on the mayor...

Reply Like 5 December 28, 2014 at 6:54am

**Klaid Alles Bechtel** ★ Top Commenter Huntington, Vermont

The should light up the Empire State building in Yellow to represent the cops who turned their backs on the Mayor and the People of NYC!

Reply Like 5 December 28, 2014 at 7:39am

**Robert Covert** ★ Top Commenter

As far as I know the Empire State Building is privately owned. This would have been done by the owners and not the city. I think it is a nice thing. I have no beef with this.

Reply Like 4 December 28, 2014 at 7:57pm

**Anthony K. Allen** ★ Top Commenter Washington, District of Columbia

So what happens next time NYPD dies in the line of duty? Will their deaths be less? All lives matter...equally!!

Reply Like 4 December 27, 2014 at 8:41pm

**Raputin Sizemore**

I don't think the city will do this when I die. Do you?

Reply Like December 28, 2014 at 11:02am

**Maurice Sinnett** ★ Top Commenter Works at Retired

It's a shame the NYPD doesn't see it that way

Reply Like December 28, 2014 at 12:38pm

**Gerri Self** ★ Top Commenter Regulatory Start Up Specialist at Quintiles

Is this something they do for all fallen NYC officers?

Reply Like 4 December 27, 2014 at 9:05pm

**Jonathan Pestana** ★ Top Commenter

No officer has been killed in NYC since 2011 until these 2 were murdered.

Reply Like 7 December 27, 2014 at 11:16pm

**Armin Otto** ★ Top Commenter

Jonathan Pestana looks like being a cop is far less dangerous than their in-enemy-territory-shoot-to-kill attitude suggests ...

Reply Like December 28, 2014 at 4:30am

**Anthony K. Allen** ★ Top Commenter Washington, District of Columbia

Jonathan Pestana So? Is this now standard procedure? This is propaganda on the level of "the interview"

Reply Like 4 December 28, 2014 at 6:50am

[View 6 more](#)**Nikki Rose** ★ Top Commenter Taconic High School

I was driving on the highway yesterday and there was a giant billboard 'in remembrance' of some massachusetts cop killed in 2007... who are the agitators fanning the flames now??

Reply Like 2 December 28, 2014 at 6:33am

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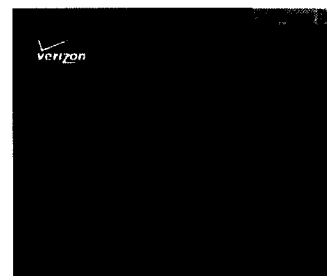
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Video: Ford's plan to put 2015 Mustang atop Empire State Building



2015 Ford Mustang convertible (courtesy Ford)

Michael Wayland | mwayland@mlive.com

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By Michael Wayland | mwayland@mlive.com

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on April 14, 2014 at 3:26 PM, updated at 9:05 PM

Print

DEARBORN, MI- In anticipation of putting a 2015 Mustang convertible atop the Empire State Building later this week, Ford Motor Co. today released a video about how it plans to perform the unique stunt.

The nearly 2:30 minute video -- released today on YouTube -- starts by discussing the stunt, which it originally performed with a prototype Mustang convertible in 1965; followed by engineers, technicians and executives discussing how they made sure the vehicle's six pieces will fit in the 36 inch-wide elevator.

According to Don Snell, DST Industries chief operating officer, crews actually built a mock elevator to ensure the stunt goes well. He said the main thing was to make sure the car fit in the elevators, and that it doesn't look like the car has been cut apart.

"It will be very tough to determine that this car was actually cut apart," he said in the video. "When you look at it, it's going to look like a brand new Mustang up on the 86th floor as a complete car."

Ford plans to display the 2015 Mustang convertible April 16-17 on the 86th floor observation deck of the Empire State Building in New York to celebrate the vehicle's 50th anniversary.



Ford revealed the first Mustang to the public at the 1964 New

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When the Empire State Building opened in 1931 as the world's then-tallest building — a title it held for nearly 40 years — no one would have envisioned trying to transport a car up in the original elevators. But in 1965, a prototype Mustang convertible was sliced into three main sections plus windshield so that the sections would fit into those elevators.

Ford

York World's Fair on April 17. The next year, Ford sliced a prototype Mustang convertible into three main sections and a windshield to get the vehicle into the original elevators of the Empire State Building (see photo below).

"We're going to celebrate our history and our heritage by going back and doing something that we've done before — tying the old with the new," said David Pericak,

Mustang chief engineer, in the video. "What we're doing here is we're making history for the second time."

The 2015 Mustang is nearly seven inches longer and four inches wider than its original predecessor, making the task of transporting it up even more challenging, according to Ford.

Once everything is uncrated and transported up 86 floors, the technicians will have less than six hours to reassemble the sections into a complete car that will be on display above Manhattan.

Visitors to the **Empire State Building** observation deck can see the new Mustang convertible for 54 hours from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. April 16-17.

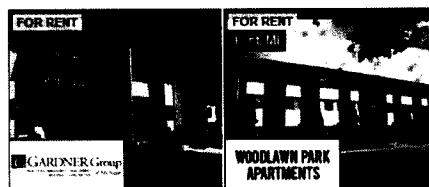
Over the past five decades, more than 9 million Mustangs have been sold.

The 2015 Mustang is expected to go into production by mid-2014 at Ford's Flat Rock

Assembly Plant in Michigan and arrive in U.S. showrooms in the fall. Ford is doing a staggered global release, with the vehicle arriving in global markets, including Europe and Asia, through 2015. U.S. ordering is expected to begin in the summer.

The iconic pony car features a sleeker design with a lower, wider stance and bolder dual grille. It's definitely a Mustang, but features new design cues and technologies — from LED taillights to integral-link independent rear suspension.

Michael Wayland covers the automotive industry for MLive. Email him at MWayland@mlive.com & follow him on Twitter @MikeWayland or Google+.



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Photos: Ford puts 2015 Mustang atop Empire State Building to mark 50th anniversary



Ford to put 2015 Mustang atop Empire State Building in New York

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The stunt, etc.

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Eva Brain The Latest Mustang may be proven to be the best ever apart some old techniques were applied to accomplish the new car.hopes to sell One Million in the coming 18 months expecting from this year

 **watchcaltwp** Back in the 60's Campbell Ewald, then Chevrolet's Ad Agency, produced a commercial with a new Chevy convertible on top of a very large pinnacle rock in Colorado. The car was disassembled on the ground lifted in pieces minus the engine and drive train, by helicopter, reassembled and a model was taken up to sit in the drivers seat. A crew member was up there with her hand on the floor of the back seat. The commercial was entitled Pinnacle and as was the case with all of those grand productions a ten minute film was produced detailing the making of the commercial.

Timeline: Arctic cold, lake effect snow on the way



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Video: Ford Mustang turns 50 by climbing Empire State Building

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By Alex Napolitano | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
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New York City's Empire State Building is known for its symbolic lighting displays, but on Wednesday morning it will be topped with a Ford Mustang GT.

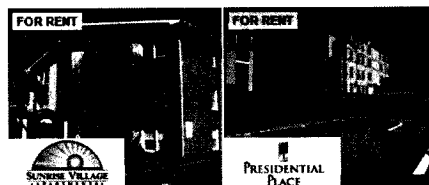
Think it's crazy? Well, this isn't the first time Ford will park a Mustang on top of the 1,224-foot skyscraper — the first time was in 1965 to commemorate the first Mustang model. Wednesday's display will be of a yellow 2015 GT 5.0 convertible.

The Ford convertible will sit atop the building for two days to mark the 50th anniversary of the Mustang model, according to a [report on mlive.com](#).

The car will be taken up to the 86th floor observation deck in six pieces via the building's elevators.

Do you have a favorite Mustang model? Let us know in the comments section below.

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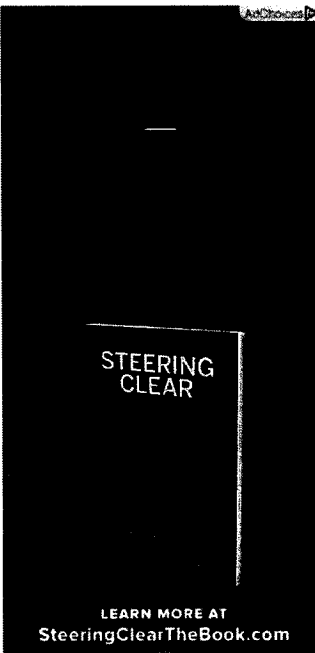
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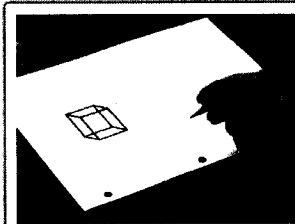


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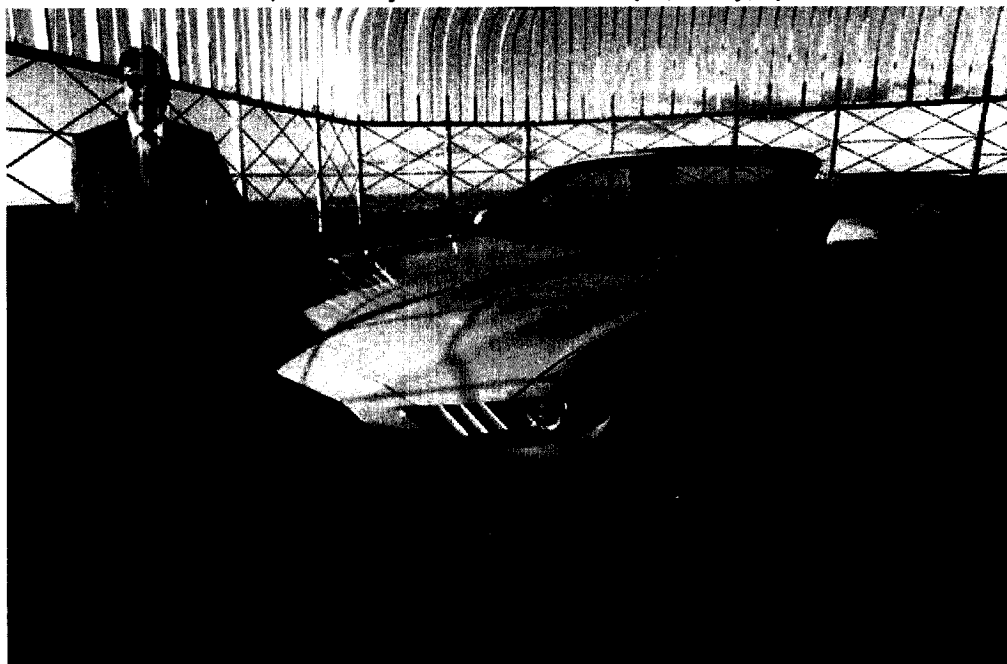
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On Top of the Empire State Building With a 2015 Ford Mustang

John Rosevear and Rex Moore, The Motley Fool Published 3:45 pm, Friday, April 25, 2014



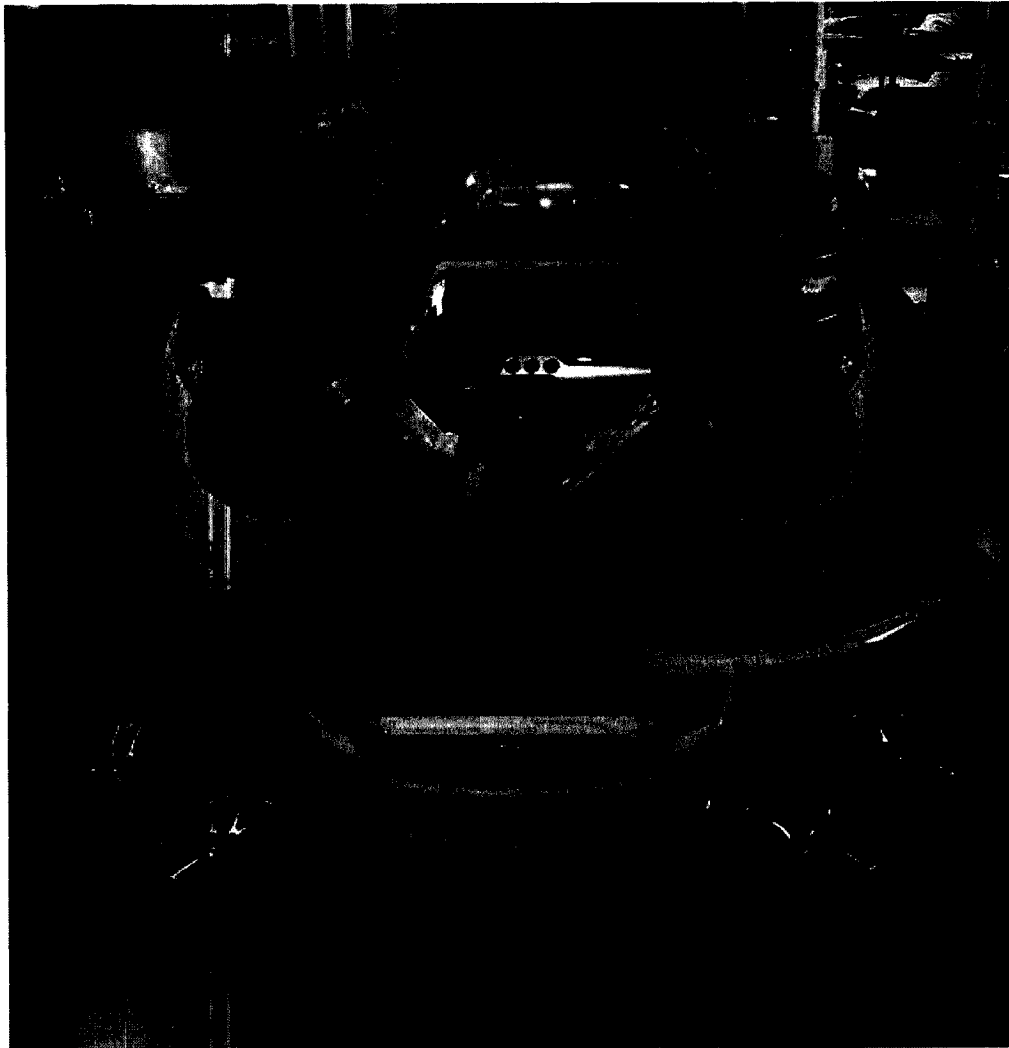
Ford's Executive Chairman (and leading Mustang fan) Bill Ford posed with a 2015 Mustang GT convertible on the 86th floor observation deck of the Empire State Building in New York last week. Photo credit: Ford Motor Co.

Ford didn't have any major announcements to make at the New York International Auto Show last week. But the Blue Oval did throw an impressive party for one of its iconic products. The Mustang turned 50 years old last week, and Ford was determined to honor its proud pony in proper style.

Ford's celebration included a special anniversary edition of the all-new 2015 Mustang, presented to the media by Chief Operating Officer Mark Fields -- and in a surprise, Executive Chairman Bill Ford himself, who gave us the details of the new anniversary model. It also included a party at the Empire State Building, where Ford recreated a stunt they'd first pulled in 1965: putting a Mustang on the Empire State Building's observation deck, 86 floors above New York's streets.

Your humble Fools -- The Motley Fool's John Rosevear and Rex Moore -- were in New York for the show, and we managed to wangle invitations to Ford's party. The party itself was an impressive fest, with top Ford officials (including Bill Ford and Mark Fields), and major media figures in attendance.

But the most impressive part was that yellow Mustang convertible out on the observation deck.



Some assembly required: The Mustang, in Empire-State-Building-elevator-sized pieces. Photo credit: Ford Motor Company.

To make this stunt happen, Ford consulted longtime partner DST Industries, which helped with the original stunt in 1965. The team carefully cut up a brand-new 2015 Mustang GT convertible and packaged it into Empire-State-Building-elevator-sized chunks. Then, in New York, a six-man crew took it piece by piece up the building's elevators, and reassembled the car out on the observation deck -- in a stiff wind, working under a strict six-hour time limit.

Why would Ford do this? The Mustang, after all, is hardly Ford's best-seller. Why put so much effort into a stunt designed to attract attention to it?

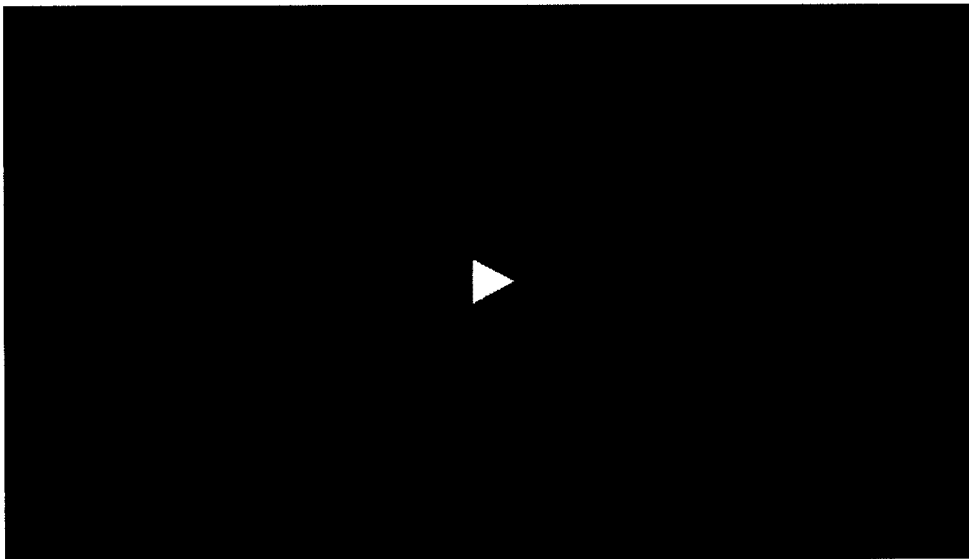
It's fun publicity for the Ford brand, of course. And it helps call attention to the fact that the Mustang is all-new for 2015. But there's more to it than that.

Cars like the Mustang serve an important business purpose, even if their sales numbers are dwarfed by those of more mainstream models. Like other high-performance cars, the Mustang brings people into dealerships to see it, and some of those folks will leave with a new Fusion or I 150.

It also gets enthusiasts excited about Ford -- and those enthusiasts are often the ones who other ask for advice on their next new car.

There's another, often underrated reason that manufacturers are willing to invest in models like the highest-performing versions of the Mustang that sell in tiny numbers: Talented engineers like working on them. A car like the Mustang can be a powerful recruiting tool for Ford.

With a little help from a kindly Empire State Building security person, we were able to wade through throngs of tourists and get right up next to the Mustang on the observation deck before the sun set. Thanks to the magic of video, you can see it just as we did.





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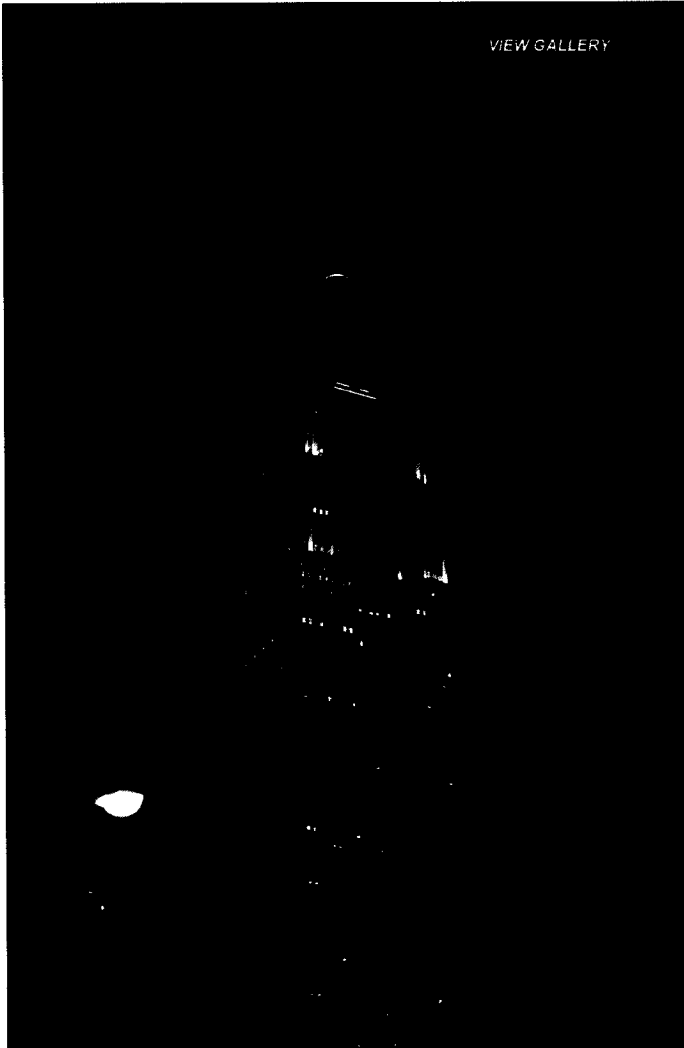
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Photos, Videos: Watch The Empire State Building's Holiday Light Show

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(Empire State Realty Trust, Inc.)

Have you noticed the Empire State Building's lights twinkling around 7 p.m. the past couple nights? That's because the iconic skyscraper is in the middle of its Holiday music-and-light show—and there are three more nights to bask in its glory!

On Saturday, "Jingle Bell Rock" from Bobby Helms and and Keith Richards' version of "Run Rudolph Run" were set to the building's LED lights, with the music on 106.7 Lite fm and iHeartRadio's app. Last night, it was Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and Karmin's "Sleigh Ride."



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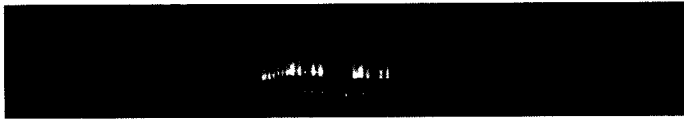
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Tonight, the songs are Dean Martin's "Let It Snow" and Darlene Love's "All Alone on Christmas" and Tuesday has Burl Ives' "Holly Jolly Christmas" and The Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping" Here's where you can see the shows.



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| 2 34th St. and 6th Ave. (Herald Square) | 6 E 14th St. and Broadway (Union Square) |
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Via Empire State Realty Trust Inc.

Fans can vote on their favorite—and the winner will be encored on Christmas Eve. Maybe next year the Empire State Building will consider the Star Wars Cantina song.

Contact the author of this article via email tips@gothamist.com with further questions, comments or tips.

Jen Chung in Arts & Entertainment on Dec 22, 2014 3:38 pm

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING HOLIDAY LIGHTS

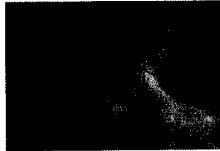
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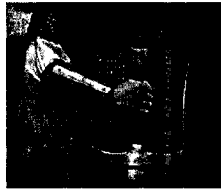
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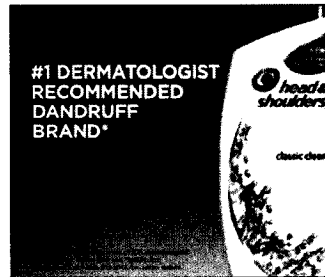
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New York Cynic

I really do miss the old, simple ESB lights. These light shows just seem gaudy.



litedesign

Agreed. But isn't that what Christmas spirit is really all about?



ballsup

I came here to say the same thing. It's very gaudy. Just because those new lights have the ability to do that stuff doesn't mean they should be doing it. It's like someone is just having fun playing with all the new features.



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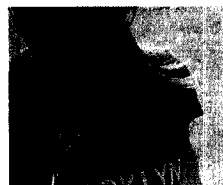
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Empire State REIT to report Q4 Thurs.: Business briefs

Published 9:26 pm, Tuesday, February 11, 2014



Danbury's Odyssey

Logistics gains

Goldman investment

Odyssey Logistics & Technology has announced its acceptance of a non-controlling capital investment from Goldman Sachs. The capital will be used in its ongoing programs of strategic acquisitions and global expansion. The Goldman Sachs investing team was led by Michael McGinn, co-head of Goldman Sachs' Private Capital Investing group, and Stephen Kerns, also a member of the group. Brokerage and investment banking firm, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Stifel Financial Corp., acted as financial adviser to OL&T. Headquartered in Danbury, Odyssey Logistics & Technology is a global lead logistics provider offering a broad array of services to support the shipment of cargoes, both domestically and internationally.

Finch discusses

sustainability

Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch recently met with Daphne Dixon, of Fairfield, at the business incubator for the Fairfield University Business Accelerator and Mentoring Enterprise to discuss the value of sustainability to the region. Dixon is

an inaugural client of FAME, a collaboration between Fairfield University's Charles F. Dolan School of Business, the Town of Fairfield Economic Development Department, and Kleban Properties. Dixon founded 'Conscious Decisions,' a socially responsible business venture, to educate the public on sustainable and eco-friendly living practices. She and Mayor Finch discussed the latest sustainable energy products and services available to municipalities. Christopher Anastasi, sustainability coordinator for the City of Bridgeport, also attended the meeting.

Empire State Realty Trust to report financial results

The publicly traded Empire State Realty Trust, which includes a handful of Fairfield County properties, will release its fourth-quarter financial results on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 27. A conference call will be held the following morning, at 10 a.m., the company said. Greenwich's

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Anthony Malkin is the chairman and CEO of the REIT, which includes the Empire State Building, and his father Peter Malkin is chairman emeritus. The conference call is also available over the investor relations section of the ESRT's website at www.empirestaterealtytrust.com. It launched as a public entity in early October at \$13 a share. The stock rose 0.7 percent Tuesday to \$14.65.



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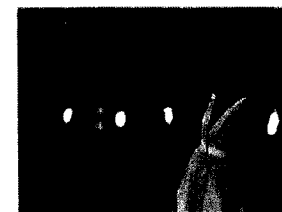
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Empire State Building sues photographer over topless photos



The owners of the Empire State Building filed a lawsuit against a fashion photographer for taking pictures of a topless model on the building's observation deck. (John O'Boyle/The Star-Ledger)

5

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By Alex Napolitano | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on January 14, 2014 at 12:01 PM, updated January 14, 2014 at 1:19 PM

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Talk about a million-dollar view.

The owners of the Empire State Building filed a \$1.1 million lawsuit Monday against fashion photographer Allen Henson for a set of topless pictures taken on the building's observation deck, the NY Post reports.

According to court papers, Henson never notified the building about his plans for the photo shoot or asked permission to use the space. Building representatives called the shoot "objectionable and inappropriate" because the space used is a family-oriented attraction, the report said.

The photos tarnished the reputation of the Empire State Building, the lawsuit said, and forced the building to add more security personnel.

Henson, an Iraq war veteran, admitted to the Post that he never asked for permission but denies that he used the photos for commercial use, which the lawsuit alleges.

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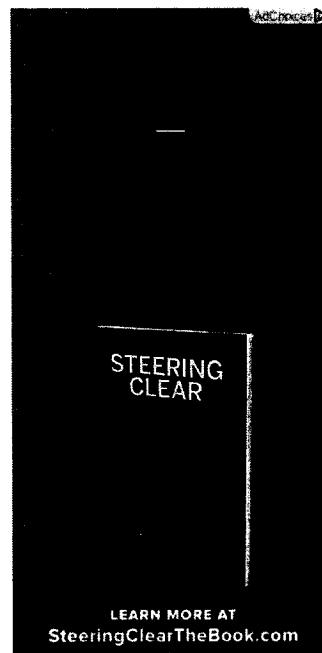
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From the Archive

Clivus Multum

They filmed a movie where this giant naked gorilla climbed all the way to the top of the thing and nobody sued

tigerpilot

The courts have held that being topless in New York state is legal. If the building management were smart they would withdraw the suit before the counter suit takes off and they loose big time. Such a counter suit would be a slam dunk for some greedy attorney

Clivus Multum

I think the private property issue jakes this suit viable

Clivus Multum

..... makes this suit
Cripes. I hate auto spell !

JA

Would never have known had the ESB owners, managers, and lawyers opened their mouths.

jerzeyjolt

I don't see it, where does it say that the models are female or do we assume that topless male models would not offend ESB. Please, if anyone gets word that Kate Upton is going to be doing a topless photo shoot, let me know. I think she is a brilliant conversationalist.

Real

The Empire State building lost it's reputation because some topless photos?

Are you kidding me with this lawsuit? There are bigger problems in life than a couple half naked ladies. Please ESB, get over this and just simply set signs to all visitors, no nudity pictures nor any photography for business use unless authorization by building management approves before otherwise.

Real

FisherMoose

ESB - Embrace Said Boobies!

Sorry, just had to get my two nipples worth in.

ARegularGuy

What's more damning to the ESB's rep

- That someone without permission took their top off for some quick snaps before security could get involved?
- or
- That the ESB thinks womens' breasts render their observation deck unfriendly/unfamily, as if womens' breasts are tainted or poisonous or something?

Me?? I think mothers' breasts are about as family friendly as one could get!

Kurjak

Sounds like a new juicy scandal... EmpireGate... gimme a break. I'm with you ARegularGuy

Voiceofreezinn

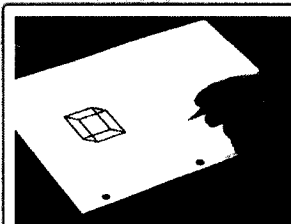
Are you kidding me? This is news? Get over it ESB.

DuhMoment

What a bunch of bull, seeing as women can bare their chests in NYC, Empire State Building is not immune to NY laws.

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 **FisherMoose**

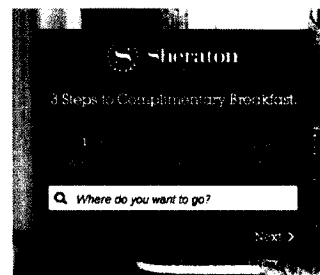
Great Point. Unless the ESB has a specific written policy against bare bosoms, the NYC laws will still apply.

 **Kurjak**

I need photos to know if this story is true (without blurring... for science of course)

 **FisherMoose**

I agree. I think we should all view the photos and determine for ourselves if they were for commercial gain, or aesthetics only.



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Photographer with Houston ties sued for snapping topless photos atop Empire State Building

By Carol Christian Published 2:45 pm, Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Allen Henson, a globe-hopping avant-garde photographer who has worked in Houston, is being sued by the owner of the Empire State Building for taking pictures of a topless model atop the tourist magnet.

In an email Wednesday afternoon, Henson said he's "not worried at all" about the suit filed Jan. 10 in New York County Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs are ESRT Empire State Building, which owns the land and building, and ESRT Observatory TRS, which operates the 86th floor observation deck.

According to the lawsuit, Henson and a professional female model went to the observatory on the afternoon of Aug. 9.

The model removed her top and modeled for topless photos taken by Henson for commercial purposes, the suit alleges.

Henson said it wasn't a photoshoot because he took the pictures with his cell phone as part of a project showing "a juxtaposition of nudes in public scenarios."

Building management wasn't notified about the photo session, and Henson didn't ask or get permission for it, according to the suit.

The admission ticket to the observatory states that the building "may refuse admission or expel any person whose conduct is objectionable," the lawsuit states.

The plaintiffs contend that Henson's photographing a model's bare breasts spoiled the famous building's reputation as "a safe, secure and appropriate place for families and tourists."

In direct defiance of the building's requirements for commercial photography at the observatory, Henson engaged in the topless photoshoot as part of his self-styled "boobs around town project," the suit states.

When Henson and the model went to the observatory, it was crowded with visitors, including

children, and the incident received "significant" media coverage, the suit states.

The suit seeks damages of at least \$1.1 million.

Henson told USA Today that he took the photos when no children were present as part of a social experiment he started after learning it was legal to go topless.

Henson is the same photographer who took photos of Houston model Shelby Carter stripping to her underwear at a posh Manhattan rooftop restaurant, two days after the Empire State Building session.

Henson, who has photographed models signed with the Page Parkes Model and Talent Agency in Houston, said shortly after the restaurant photo shoot that part of his purpose was to challenge social norms and gauge people's reactions.

He served six years in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in February 2010 from the 22nd Infantry Regiment.

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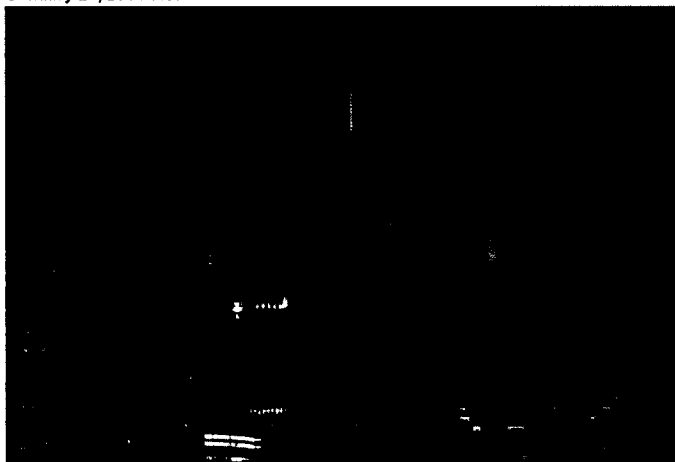


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The iconic Empire State Building is illuminated with Seahawks colors on Monday, January, 27, 2014. (Joshua Trujillo, seattlepi.com)

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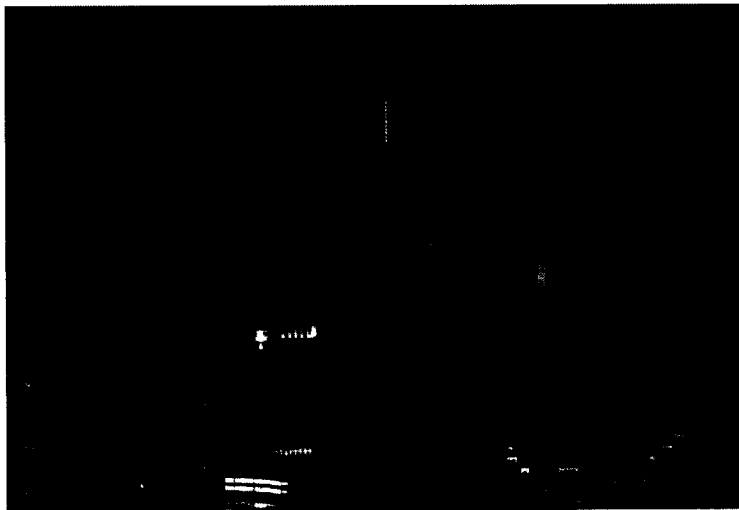
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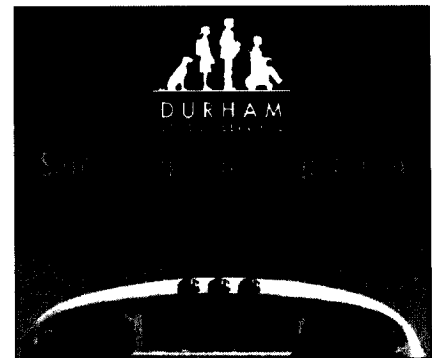


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Malkins win Empire lawsuit

Associated Press

Updated 10:11 pm, Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Thousands of onetime investors in the Empire State Building can't sue over claims they were shortchanged by the deal that turned the iconic skyscraper into a public stock, a judge has ruled.

The lawsuit pit roughly 3,000 investors against father-and-son real estate magnates and Greenwich residents Peter and Anthony Malkin. A lawyer for some of the investors, Stephen Meister, said they intend to appeal. Another plaintiffs' lawyer, John Rizio-Hamilton, declined comment, as did an attorney for the Malkins, David Pegno.

The aggrieved stakeholders -- people who had held Empire State Building shares that were sold privately in 1961 -- said they lost more than \$400 million in potential profits when the managing owners rebuffed interested private buyers in order to sell public shares in the building immortalized in "King Kong" and "Sleepless in Seattle." But a \$55 million settlement last year barred them from suing further over the October initial public offering, the judge wrote as he dismissed their lawsuit in a ruling made public Monday.

"The settlement agreement ... contains a covenant not to sue," among other provisions foreclosing more litigation, Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice O. Peter

Sherwood wrote.

Completed in 1931, the 102-story skyscraper was the world's tallest building until the World Trade Center supplanted it in 1972. When the Empire State Building changed hands in 1961, the buyers sold shares at \$10,000 each to help finance the deal. Some investors were everyday New Yorkers who pulled together just enough cash to get partial shares.

Last year, the Malkins spearheaded an IPO plan that combined the skyscraper with 11 other properties in their portfolio in New York and Connecticut. Shares began trading at \$13 a share and were at about \$16 Tuesday; the stock trades under the symbol "ESRT," for Empire Real Estate Trust Inc.

The former stakeholders acknowledged the May 2013 settlement's provisions against future claims, but they argued their suit was viable because it concerned offers that emerged in the

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months after the agreement.

The \$13-a-share price valued the skyscraper at \$1.89 billion, but the Malkins turned down cash offers as high as \$2.3 billion, the suit said.

It argued that those offers were better for the investors, but the Malkins favored the IPO because it would yield them more than \$300 million from fees and a profit-sharing provision.

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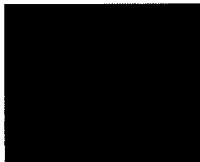
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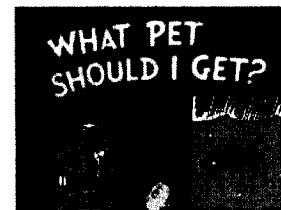
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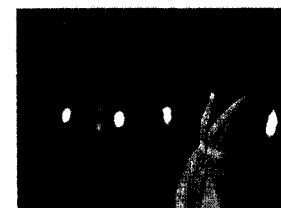
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udge said terms of a \$55 million settlement last year
 d the lawsuit over the October public offering that ushered
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ers for both sides declined to comment.

lawsuit was filed on behalf of roughly 3,000 people who
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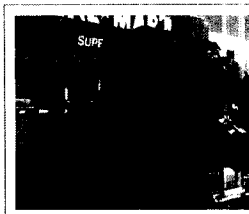
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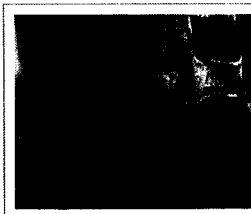
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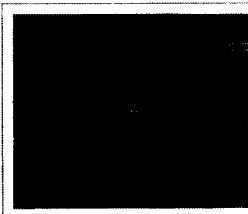
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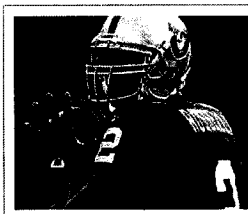
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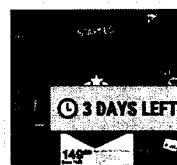
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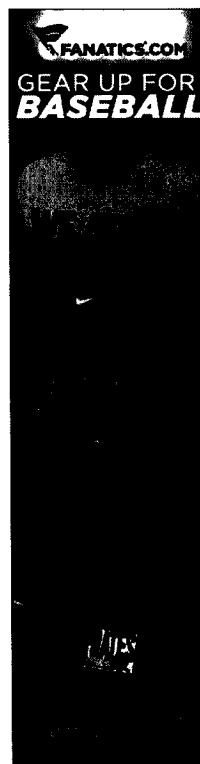
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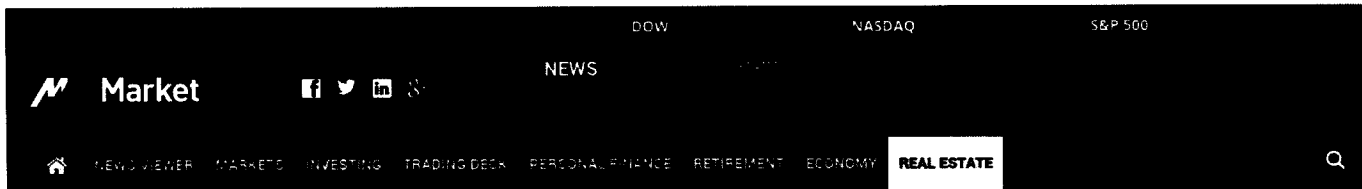
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PRESS RELEASE

Empire State Building to Host Exclusive Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Viewing

Published: June 13, 2014 4:47 p.m. ET



Annual Event Offers Breathtaking Views of the Greater New York City Region and Fireworks Shows from the World-Famous 86th Floor Observatory

NEW YORK, June 13, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- On Friday, July 4, 2014, the Empire State Building (ESB) will host its annual Independence Day Celebration at the world-famous 86th Floor Observatory from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. With breathtaking views, guests from around the world will be able to experience the return of fireworks to the East River as part of this exclusive event.

Ticket holders will be provided with VIP private access to the 80th Floor "Dare to Dream" exhibit and 86th Floor Observatory, which will be closed to the general public at approximately 6:30 p.m. and reopen at 10:00 p.m. following the fireworks show. A DJ will provide the soundtrack to the evening and a TV screen will be set up for a simulcast of the fireworks display.

Limited tickets are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, for \$175 each and can be purchased by visiting www.esbnyc.com/ind4. (www.facebook.com/EmpireStateBuilding) will also give fans a chance to win one (1) pair of tickets to this exclusive event. Followers of the ESB Facebook page will be asked to describe why they should win the opportunity to view the Independence Day fireworks from this one-of-a-kind vantage point. The winner will be announced on June 25, via ESB's social media channels.

In addition to hosting the Independence Day Celebration event, the Empire State Building will shine its world-famous tower lights in patriotic red, white and blue in celebration of the holiday the evenings of Thursday, July 3 through Sunday, July 6, with dynamic red, white and blue flourishes on July 4.

About the Empire State Building Soaring 1,454 feet above Midtown Manhattan (from base to antenna), the Empire State Building, owned by Empire State Realty Trust, Inc., is the "World's Most Famous Office Building." With new investments in energy efficiency, infrastructure, public areas and amenities, the Empire State Building has attracted first-rate tenants in a diverse array of industries from around the world. The skyscraper's robust broadcasting technology supports all major television and FM radio stations in the New York metropolitan market. The Empire State Building was named America's favorite building in a poll conducted by the American Institute of Architects, and the Empire State Building Observatory is one of the world's most beloved attractions as the region's #1 tourist destination. For more information on the Empire State Building, please visit www.empirestatebuilding.com, www.facebook.com/empirestatebuilding, @EmpireStateBldg, www.instagram.com/empirestatebldg, www.youtube.com/esbnyc or www.pinterest.com/empirestatebldg/.

About Empire State Realty Trust Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. ESRT, +2.04% a leading real estate investment trust (REIT), owns, manages, operates, acquires and repositions office and retail properties in Manhattan and the greater New York metropolitan area, including the Empire State Building, the world's most famous office building. Headquartered in New York, New York, the Company's office and retail portfolio covers 8.4 million rentable square feet, as of March 31, 2014, consisting of 7.7 million rentable square feet in 12 office properties, including seven in Manhattan, three in Fairfield County, Connecticut and two in Westchester County, New York; and approximately 624,000 rentable square feet in the retail portfolio. The Company also owns land at the Stamford, Connecticut

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Transportation Center that supports the development of an approximately 380,000 rentable square foot office building and garage and has recently exercised its options to acquire the ground lease of two additional Manhattan office properties encompassing approximately 1.5 million rentable square feet of office space and over 150,000 rentable square feet of retail space at the base of the buildings.

Forward-Looking Statements This press release includes "forward looking statements". Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of words such as "believes," "expects," "may," "will," "should," "seeks," "approximately," "intends," "plans," "pro forma," "estimates," "contemplates," "aims," "continues," "would" or "anticipates" or the negative of these words and phrases or similar words or phrases. The following factors, among others, could cause actual results and future events to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements: the factors included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, including those set forth under the headings "Risk Factors," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," "Business," and "Properties." While forward-looking statements reflect the Company's good faith beliefs, they are not guarantees of future performance. The Company disclaims any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect changes in underlying assumptions or factors, of new information, data or methods, future events or other changes after the date of this press release, except as required by applicable law. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could impact the Company's future results, performance or transactions, see the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, and other risks described in documents subsequently filed by the Company from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Prospective investors should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which are based only on information currently available to the Company (or to third parties making the forward-looking statements).

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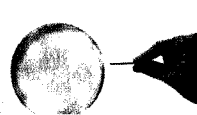
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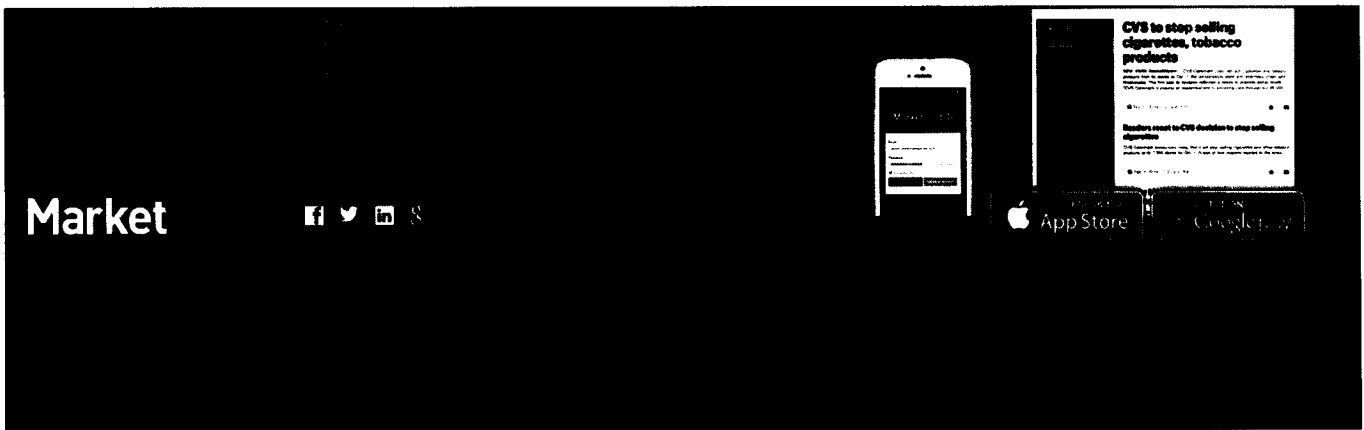
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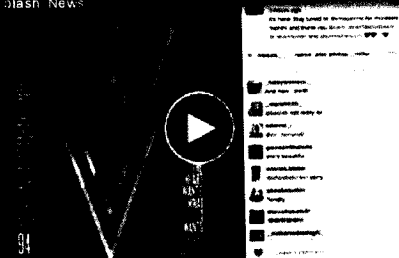
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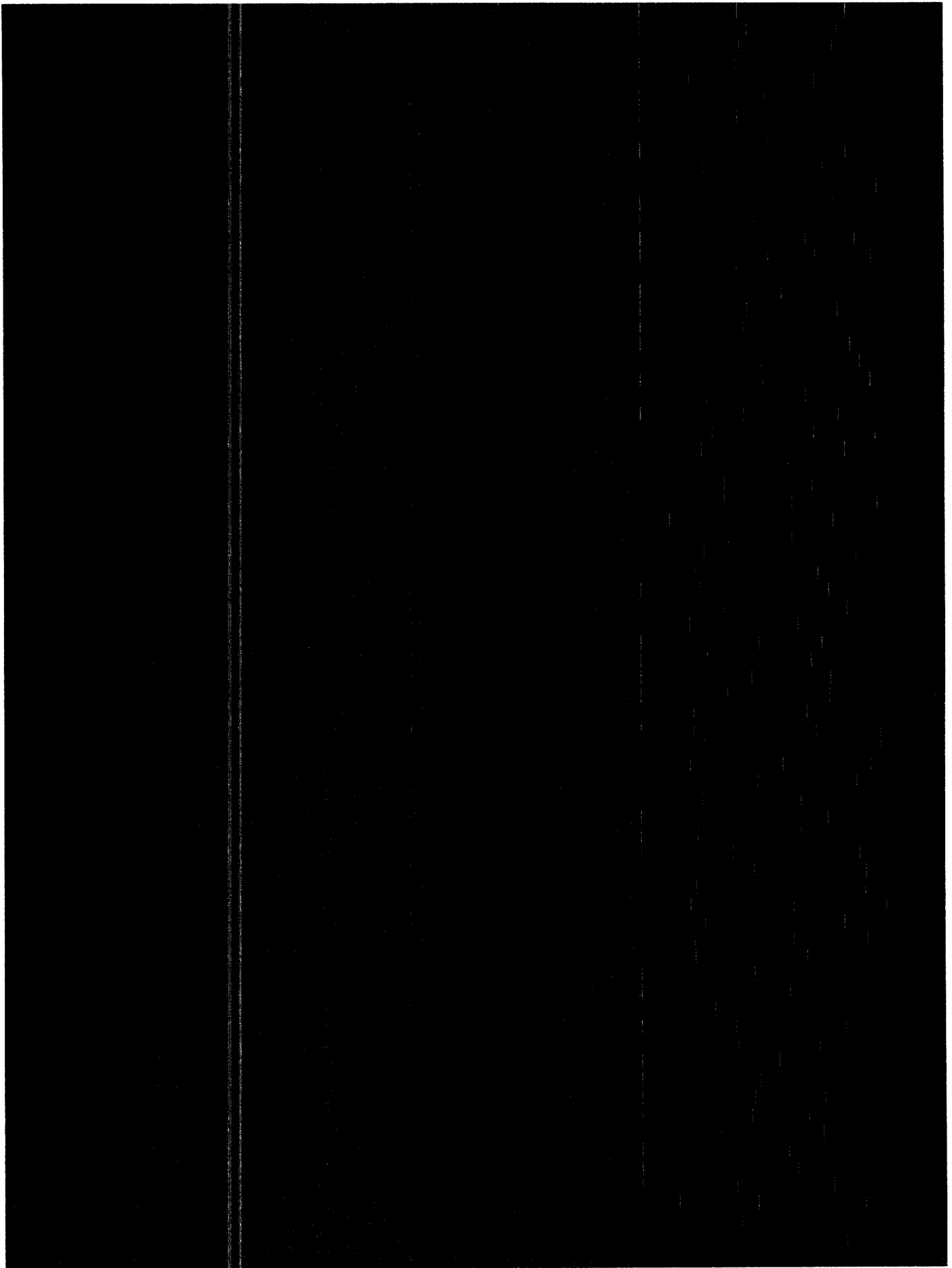
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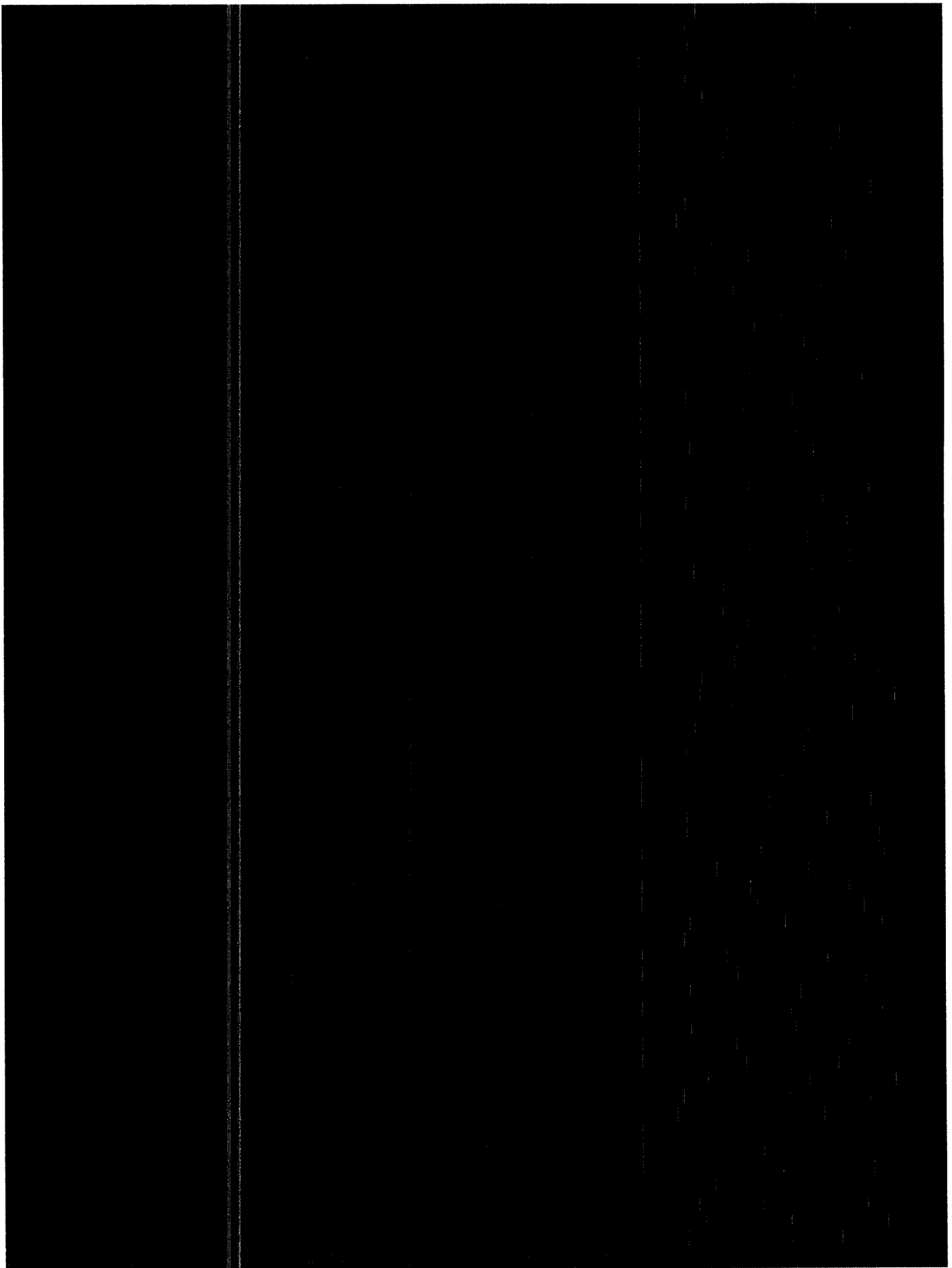
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Always Iconic, Empire State Building Now Goes for Hip

JUNE 17, 2014

Square Feet

By **RONDA KAYSEN**

Workers inside the Empire State Building may soon be able to imagine testing their weight-lifting prowess or other muscle-building regimens against the mythical feats of King Kong who once scaled this building's facade.

This summer, a 15,000-square-foot fitness center for tenants and their employees will open in the concourse of the Empire State Building, part of an effort to reinvent the 83-year-old tower as a modern day urban campus.

The gym, with white, undulating tile walls and dark wood finishes, can accommodate the building's roughly 10,000 workers. Executives who don't want to work out with the rank-and-file will have access to a private gym suite.

Other changes to the Art Deco landmark are also meant to appeal to a high-end market. Empire State Realty Trust, which owns and operates the building at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue, is also adding a conference center on the 67th floor and a 100-seat white-tablecloth restaurant on the lobby level, with private dining below. The restaurant, State Bar and Grill, wants to cater to a business clientele, rather than the millions of tourists who visit the observatory every year (about 4.3 million in 2013).

"Whatever your work hours are, you can come in, get your coffee at Starbucks, go to your modern, efficient work space and break for a workout,"

said Thomas P. Durels, chief of property operations and leasing for Empire State Realty Trust, which became a publicly traded company last year.

The recent improvements tap into a trend in office design to create a more inviting work environment. Technology companies in particular have gained a reputation for providing enticing amenities like free meals, yoga and Foosball. The philosophy is to give workers another incentive to stay longer. Detractors contend that installing a gym would not necessarily improve workers' happiness, particularly in a neighborhood where gyms are plentiful.

Restaurants serving the health-conscious and chic bars pouring after-work drinks remain sparse in this part of Midtown Manhattan. Although the Empire State Building has a Starbucks, a Chipotle, a Heartland Brewery, a deli and an AT&T store, workers expressed disappointment that one of the largest office buildings in the world doesn't offer sufficient retailing for the people who work in it. The new restaurant is intended to help address that concern.

The building has long struggled with its identity. The iconic tower might be the most recognizable on the New York City skyline, but for decades its offices didn't share in the glory. When the tower opened in 1931, during the Great Depression, it failed to attract enough tenants. (The 2.6 million-square-foot building earned an unfortunate nickname, the Empty State Building.)

For decades, a hodgepodge of nondescript tenants leased tiny spaces. Vast floors were subdivided into small, dreary offices with drop ceilings, shag carpeting and fluorescent lighting.

So in 2006, Malkin Holdings, the company handling day-to-day operations at the time, began a \$550 million modernization endeavor to restore the marble lobby and reproduce the damaged mural on the ceiling, gut vacant floors, upgrade the building's technology and overhaul the mechanical systems. The new amenities are the latest stage of the project, which also includes updating the 68 passenger elevators.

"The Empire State Building is a brand that's been abused, but it's a brand," said Anthony E. Malkin, chief executive of Empire State Realty Trust. "What is the brand of the Empire State Building? Back in 2006, my answer was: We're going to make it hot, we're going to make it hip."

Dozens of small tenants have been replaced with a few big names with stylish, modern offices, like the social networking site LinkedIn. In April, the international fragrance manufacturer Coty expanded to five floors. The stock photography company Shutterstock moved into two floors in January, paying in the mid-\$50s per square foot, according to Paul Ippolito, the broker for Newmark Grubb Knight Frank who represented Shutterstock.

“In the past few years, it’s really turned a corner,” said John Tauranac, author of “The Empire State Building: The Making of a Landmark.”

Rents have soared. In 2006, the average rent was \$26.50 a square foot. Today, asking rent ranges from the mid-\$50s to the low-\$60s per square foot, according to Mr. Durels. By comparison, the average asking rent for office space in Midtown South was \$56.31 in the first quarter of the year, according to a report by Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.

Shutterstock’s new space is an airy, open office with exposed beams, hanging Edison bulbs and two outdoor terraces. A wide internal staircase leads employees from the 21st floor down to the 20th, which has a cafeteria, yoga studio, library and game room. (A second game room on the 21st floor has an Alice in Wonderland theme.)

“It’s a beautiful building,” said Tracy J. Kim, a vice president for human resources at Shutterstock. “It’s a great location.”

Doormen clad in burgundy uniforms that match the marble greet every person who enters the building. Signs direct tourists to the Fifth Avenue entrance, leaving the 33rd and 34th street lobbies exclusively for office workers.

“The last thing an office worker wants to see is a dad in a tank top with three screaming children,” said Mr. Malkin, whose grandfather, Lawrence A. Wien, bought the Empire State Building in 1961 with Harry Helmsley.

Despite the investment, a dowdy reputation can be hard to shed, and some prospective tenants are reluctant to visit the building for a tour. Even some current employees perceive it as an unappealing tourist magnet.

“It’s not in the Fashion District and it’s not cool downtown,” said Sarah Levine, who works in the building as a senior technical designer at Li & Fung,

the consumer goods giant. Ms. Levine, who was not speaking on behalf of her company, did not know about the coming gym or restaurant, and doubts she would use either. As a working mother, she mostly appreciates the manageable commute from New Jersey.

Some tenants are welcoming the changes. Jacques Catafago, a lawyer, began leasing space in 1990. He pays \$32 a square foot for a 4,900-square-foot space on the 48th floor. But his rent will soon rise to about \$52 a square foot.

Given the building improvements, Mr. Catafago didn't balk at the new bill. Instead, he is looking forward to the gym. "I'll lose 20 pounds," he predicted.

A version of this article appears in print on June 18, 2014, on page B10 of the New York edition with the headline: Always Iconic, Empire State Building Now Goes for Hip.

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0 **New NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Kevin Harvick's Visit to the Empire State Building Pictures**

2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Kevin Harvick visits the Empire State Building's 86th floor Observatory, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

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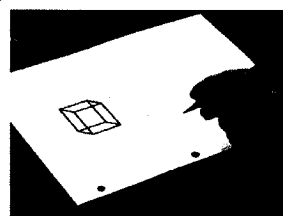







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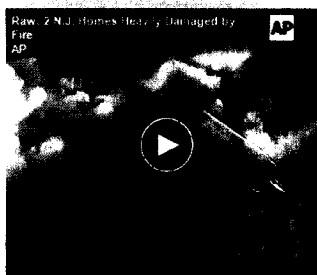


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Check out what's going on in NYC this week including a conversation with David Axelrod this Tuesday at the 92Y.
blog.timesunion.com/travelgal



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30 Jan

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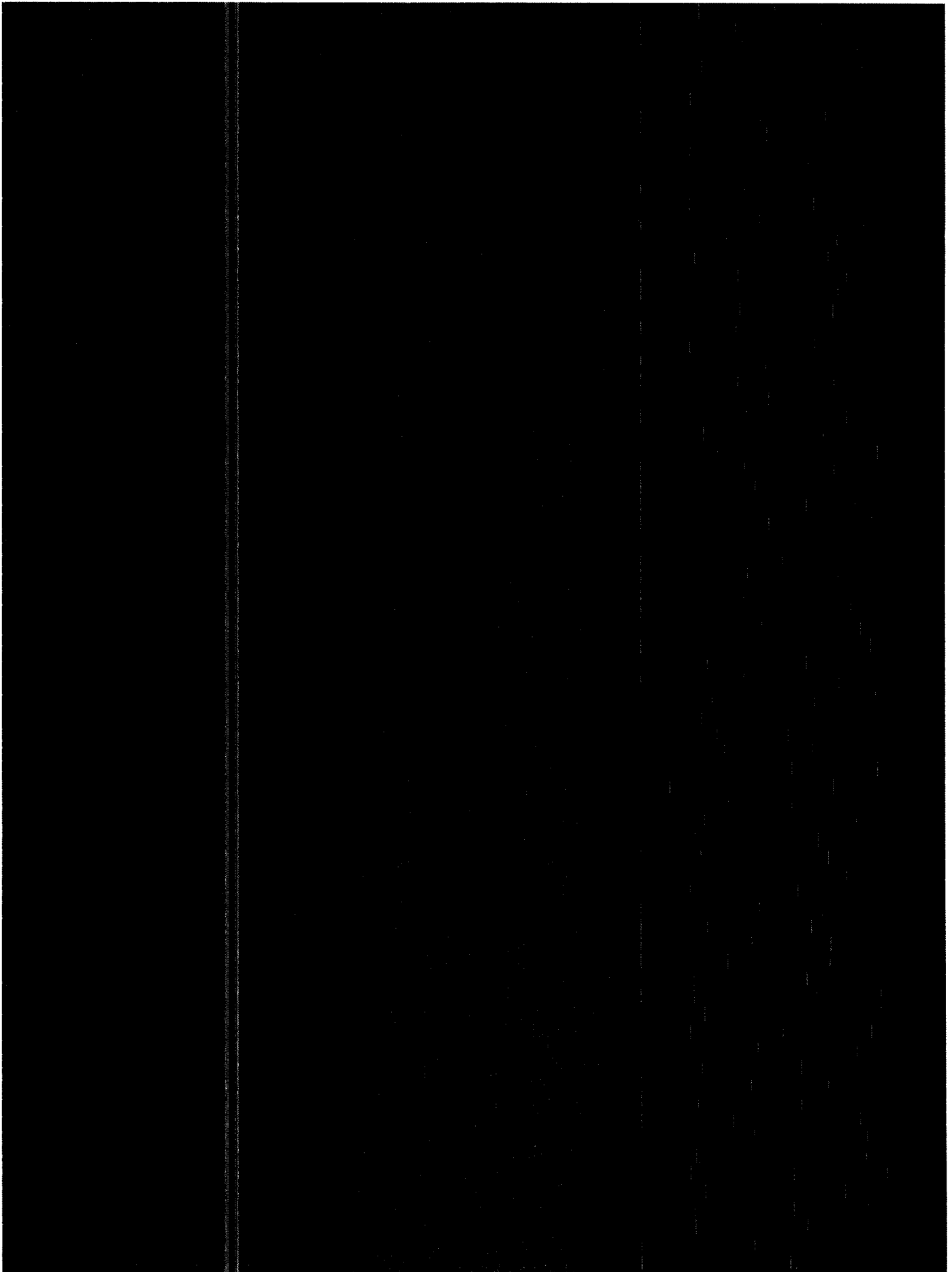
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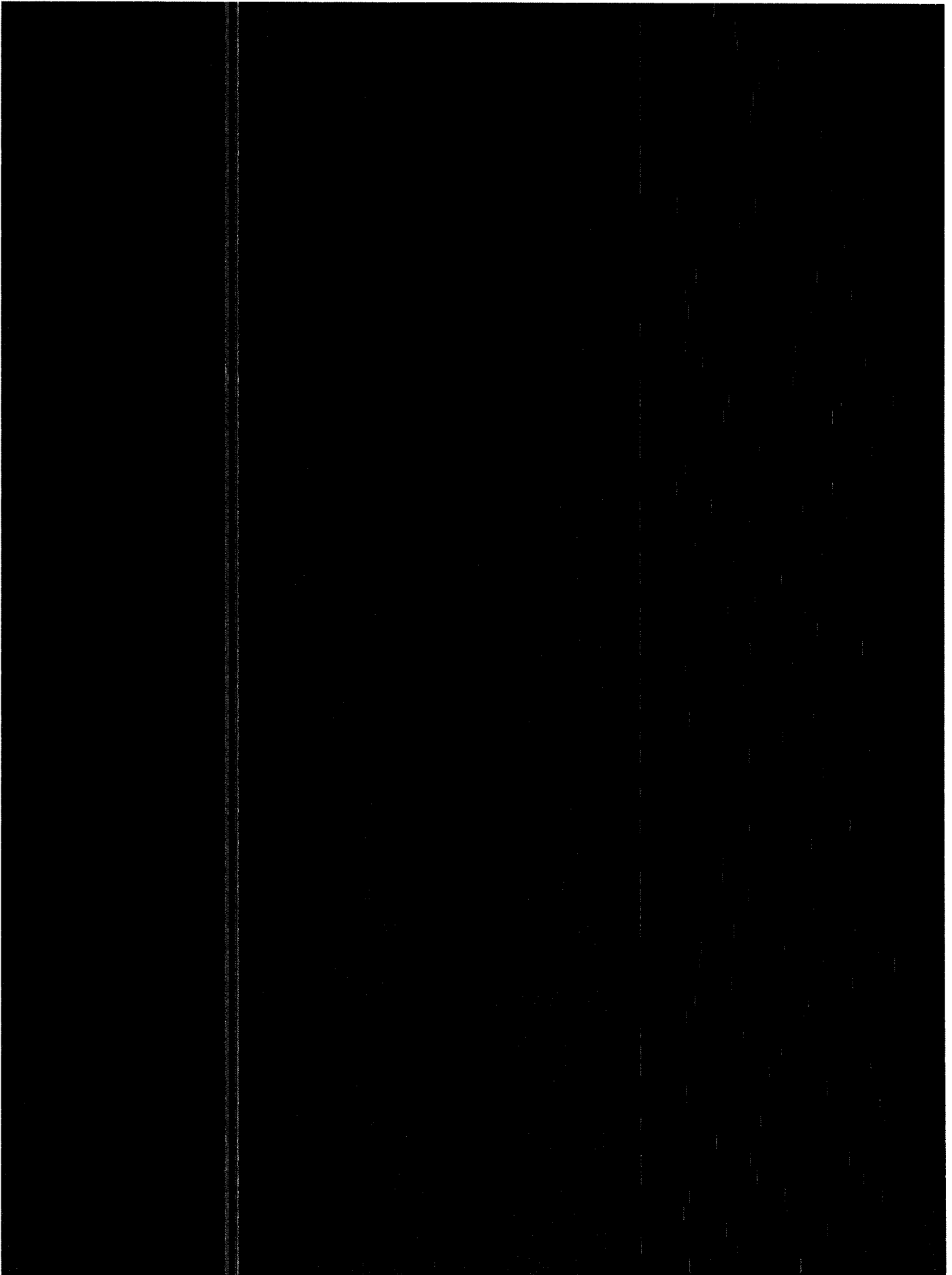
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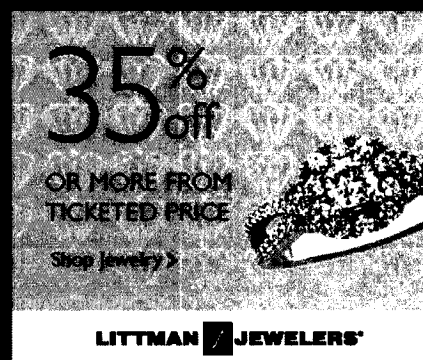
blog.timesunion.com/travelgal/ Team USA wins Silver in Bocuse d'Or competition in Lyon, France!. #bocusedor

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CELESTE KATZ

DAILY POLITICS

Race to the Top: CNN to illuminate Empire State Building with Senate results

BY CELESTE KATZ [Follow](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Published: Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 5:04 PM

/ Updated: Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 5:04 PM

A A A

12



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Election 2014 is going from TV to the top of the ESB.

Don't look for King Kong atop the Empire State Building next Tuesday -- but do check out the iconic skyscraper to find out whether Democrats or Republicans will rule the Senate, courtesy of CNN.

"As the Senate results are projected and allocated to candidates, a vertical LED-illuminated 'meter' located atop the spire of the building will ascend in either red or blue —



@CELESTEKATZNYC

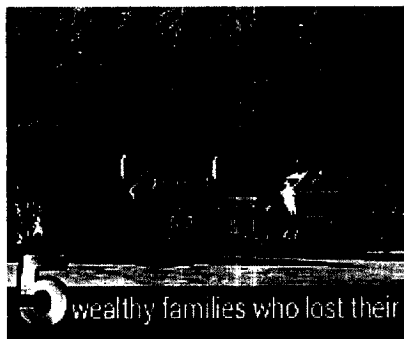
reflective of the party," the 24-hour news network said in a release Tuesday.

"Once an illuminated color — red or blue — reaches the top of the spire, that party will take control of the Senate."

The politics-driven light show begins at 6 p.m., with viewers invited to share their photos on social media with the #CNNElection tag.

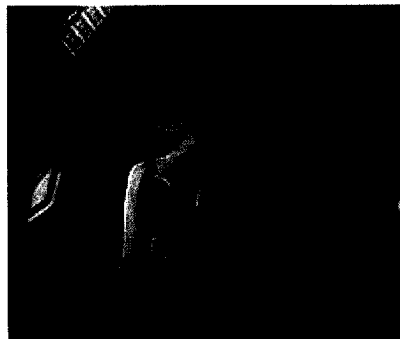
■ TAGS: empire state building , CNN , election results , instagram , twitter

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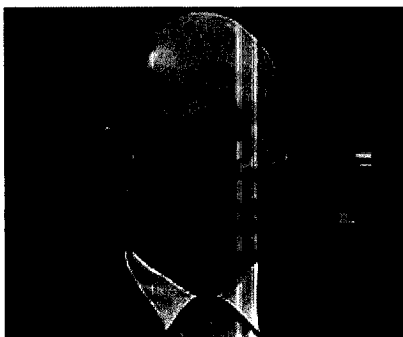
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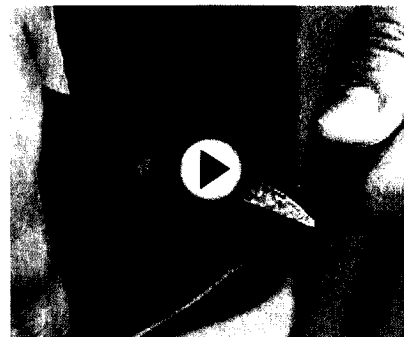
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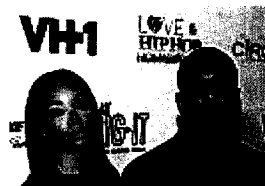
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Derek Jeter gets tribute in pinstripe lights from Empire State Building (PHOTO)

By Charles Curtis | For NJ Advance Media

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on 9/29/2014 at 1:21 PM, updated September 29, 2014 at 1:25 PM

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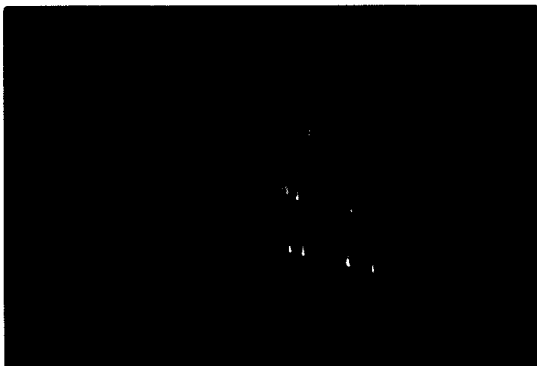
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Empire State Bldg

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Our tower lights shine @Yankees pinstripes tonight in a special tribute to #2, NYC legend #DerekJeter. #RE2PECT

6:47 PM - 28 Sep 2014

1,202 RETWEETS 915 FAVORITES

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Just when you thought hell froze over because Red Sox fans united with Yankees die-hards at Fenway Park to pay tribute to Derek Jeter, now we're seeing inanimate objects give the retired Yankees shortstop.

We kid -- above you'll see the Empire State Building lit up in blue and white pinstripes for Jeter after he played his final game in Boston on Sunday. Nicely done.



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter (2) waves one last time as he leaves the field after the game as the New York Yankees play the Boston Red Sox, and Derek Jeter plays last game of his career at Fenway Park Boston, MA 9/28/14 (William Perlman | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

William Perlman | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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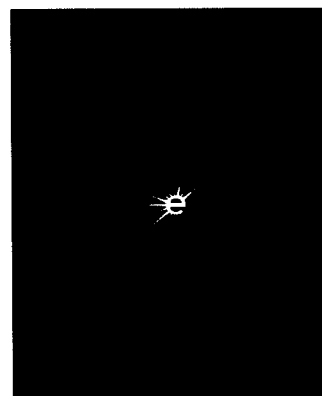
Tue, Mar 3

NY Yankees

1:05 ET

Philadelphia

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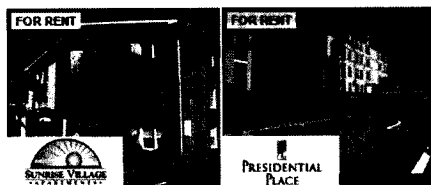
Players

Next Games

Date	Opp	Time
3/3	@ Phi (a)	1:05 ET
3/4	vs. Phi (a)	1:05 ET
3/5	@ Pitt (a)	1:05 ET
3/6	@ Phi (a)	1:05 ET

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WATCH: Here's what Derek Jeter did (with Peyton Manning) on 'SNL' 40th anniversary special

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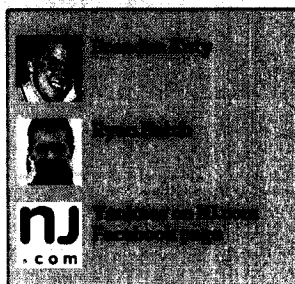
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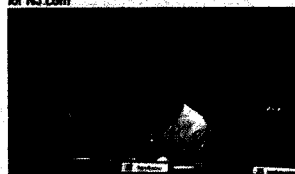
3/6 vs. Pit (p) 7:05 ET
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Following the Yankees



Video Photos

Pedro Martinez, 'We are all old Goats' on his Baseball Hall of Fame induction
Uploaded by William Perlinan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com



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Monumental Cast, but Not Much Plot

Andy Warhol's 'Empire,' Shown In Its Entirety

By BLAKE COPNIK JAN. 16, 2014

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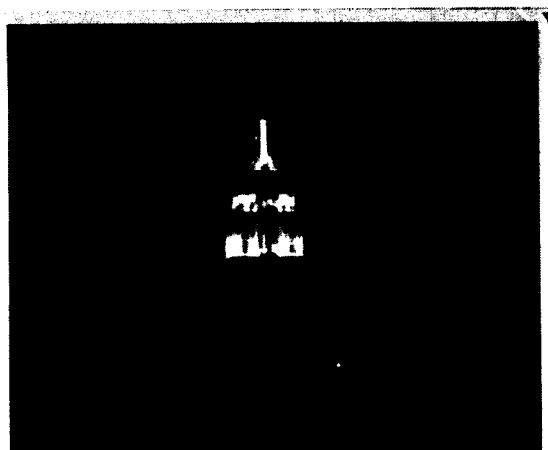
ANDY WARHOL was a genius, but he could be mean. He loved to make his acolytes squabble. He'd torture visitors by blaring the same pop song over and over.

He could even be tough on his audiences, especially with his films: He gave fans almost 45 minutes of a painter eating a mushroom, 76 minutes of an actor shaking his rear, more than five hours of a boyfriend sleeping and, to top it all, "Empire" — eight hours straight of the Empire State Building, doing nothing.

Warhol shot the skyscraper between about 8:10 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. on July 25 and 26, 1964. This month, in its 50th-anniversary year, the film is being projected by the James Fuentes gallery from start to finish.

On the screening's first weekend, I showed up prepared: coconut water, sandwiches, an apple and some old Christmas cookies — as well as a caffeine-spiked energy drink. Only that last item was never called for.

You'd expect that after Hour 3 or 4 of "Empire," you'd be ready to slit your wrists, but the movie turns out to be gripping. If great works of art can be thought of as machines for thinking, triggering ideas by the dozen, then "Empire" is a Rolls-Royce: It keeps us thinking about what film is and does, what great buildings are all about and even how and why we look at things. Jotting down my thoughts minute by minute, I ended up writing more than 5,000 words.

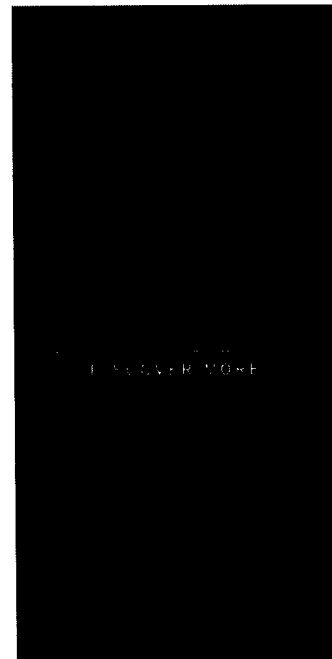


"EMPIRE" by Andy Warhol and John Palmer / World Premiere Gala, March 6th, 8:30 P.M., Adm. \$2,000 CITY HALL GARDEN, 170 Nassau Street

The invitation to the 1965 premiere of Andy Warhol's film "Empire," now being shown in its entirety at the James Fuentes gallery.

2014 The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. Carnegie Institute

There were dumb moments ("Back from 2 min. bathroom break. What did I miss?") and ones that felt smart at the time ("The E.S.B. used to be lit as a monument, in honor of its presence and importance as a building. Now, covered in LEDs, it has become like a Times Square mega-screen, advertising itself, and N.Y.C.") But what's surprising is that, for all its vast



length. "Empire" doesn't leave you with that many blank moments.

"Andy Warhol is the most revolutionary of all filmmakers working today," Jonas Mekas, the Village Voice critic and film pioneer, wrote less than a month after "Empire" was shot. Last week, over lunch at a bar a few blocks from Fuentes, which represents him, Mr. Mekas, 91, still voiced the same views on Warhol. "He *was* the avant-garde," Mr. Mekas said.

One summer day in 1964, he recalled, when he was out on the streets with a young Warhol hanger-on named John Palmer, they found themselves looking up at the Empire State Building. "I said to Palmer: 'This is a perfect Warhol movie. Why don't you tell this to Andy?' And he did."

Warhol arranged access to an office on the 41st floor of the [Time & Life Building](#), at 50th Street and Avenue of the Americas. He, Mr. Mekas and Mr. Palmer, along with a few others, found themselves in a darkened room, with a rented 16-millimeter Arriflex camera pointing at the world's tallest building, 16 blocks south.

The shoot lasted about six and a half hours, but Warhol always intended his movie — silent, black and white, and filmed at the standard 24 frames a second — to be screened at about three-quarters speed. "He wanted that touch of unreality, to take it out of naturalism," Mr. Mekas said.

At Fuentes, the screening, at 18 frames a second, takes just over seven hours, while a 1960s projector would have slowed it to 16 frames a second, taking eight hours. Warhol, the working-class boy from Pittsburgh, made a movie that asks us to sit for the length of a worker's shift.

(The longest anyone else sat with me in the gallery screening was seven minutes. You understand as much from viewing such a tiny segment of "Empire" as you would from viewing just a postage-stamp patch on the Mona Lisa.)

"Empire" had its premiere on March 6, 1965, and Mr. Mekas has saved the invitations, which credit the movie to "Andy Warhol and John Palmer." We seem to glimpse Mr. Palmer, as well as Mr. Mekas, at the beginning of two of the film's 10 reels, reflected in the Time & Life Building window. There's also a few seconds' reflection of a man who must be Warhol, taking a look through the camera.

Those glimpses feel especially important as you watch the film. They give a sense of the duration of the shooting of "Empire," and of real people endlessly gazing out the window at the actual skyscraper — perfect avatars for those of us wallowing in the movie version. It's the fact of that endless, parallel staring, by the filmmakers and us, that's the real subject of this art work.

When you're paying attention to more or less nothing, small details start to loom. Turns out you can tell the time in the movie by the beacon on top of the Met Life Tower, which flashes with each hour like a tolling church bell. And it seems amazing that a work that's all about passing time should include such a perfect means of marking it.

Warhol, Mr. Campbell's Soup, was always a master of important triviality, and he gets us to care more about little things, like a flash bulb's firing from the Empire State's summit, or its floodlights turning on and off at dusk and 2 a.m., than the great structure itself. In its dependable presence, hour after hour, it ends up having the cozy appeal of a house cat asleep beside us.

According to Mr. Mekas, he and Warhol joked during the shoot that with the building's phallic shape, the whole film might be censored as pornography. But "Empire" is more like endless foreplay.

Blake Gopnik is writing a biography of Andy Warhol for HarperCollins.

"Empire" is shown starting at 11 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday through Jan. 26 at the James Fuentes gallery, 55 Delancey Street, between Allen and Eldridge Streets, Lower East Side. 212-577-1201, jamesfuentes.com.

A version of this article appeared in print on January 17, 2014, on page C42 of the New York edition with the headline: Monumental Gaze, but Not Much Plot. Order Reprints. Today's Paper. Subscribe.



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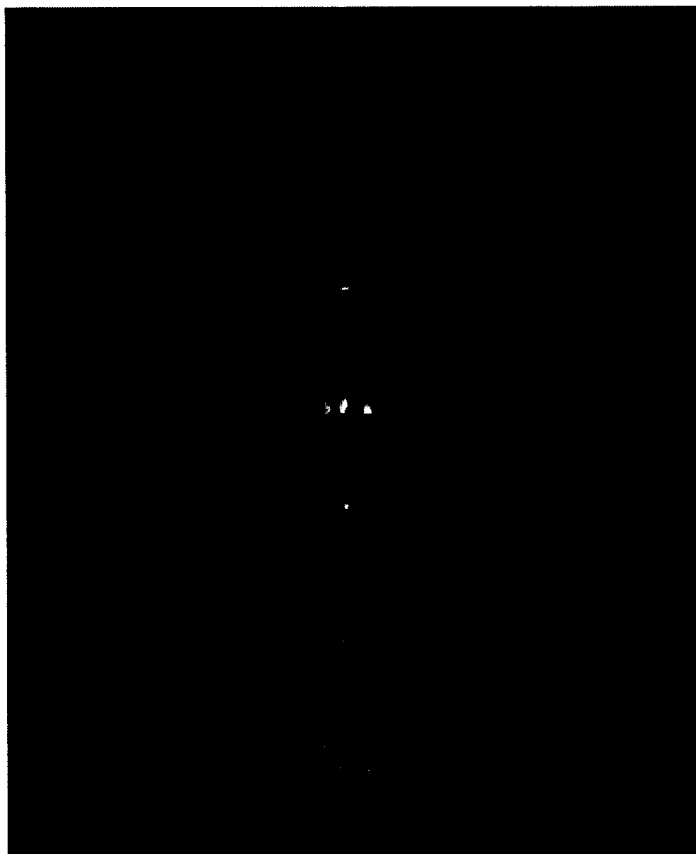
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SB★NATION**#Lookit**

New Yorkers are angry about the Empire State Building's Patriots lights

By James Dator [4] @James_Dator [5] on Feb 2, 2015, 12:03p

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Congrats to the @Patriots on their #SuperBowl victory! We're glowing in their colors to celebrate. #PatriotsWin

10:09 PM - 1 Feb 2015 NFL and 2 others

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As it turns out, New Yorkers were FURIOUS about this [12] . Strange, I know!

**1 of the 4**
@GreenLanternJet

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Are you people insane? What is wrong with you?
@EmpireStateBldg

11:10 PM - 1 Feb 2015

12 RETWEETS 16 FAVORITES



Nathan Wurtzel
@NathanWurtzel

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Maybe you politely congratulate Boston. You don't light up the Empire State Building in their honor.

I assume this is DeBlasio's doing?

11:11 PM - 1 Feb 2015

9 RETWEETS 11 FAVORITES



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I am in SHOCK that they put the patriots colors on the Empire State Building. Disgusted is not even close enough to be accurate.

12:04 AM - 2 Feb 2015

3 RETWEETS 4 FAVORITES

Oh, well. Better luck next year, New York football teams!

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Kids' Guide to New York City Amps Up the Wow Factor

Feb 9, 2015, 2:35 PM ET

By EILEEN OGINTZ, Taking the Kids



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The New York skyline is seen in this undated file photo.

Kids in high school barely remember 9/11; freshmen were just babies.

Yet it's important that they appreciate what happened because it has shaped the world they live in. Just ask David Rothblatt and Fia Hargil, lifelong New Yorkers who are among the six teens who made up the inaugural class of junior ambassadors trained to work with children who visit the new **9/11 Memorial Museum** that opened at the World Trade Center this past May. Since then, nearly 2 million people from 140 nations have visited. (A tip: purchase tickets online several weeks in advance to get the time slot you want.)

Some 150 students applied for the six slots "to honor those who risked and gave their lives for strangers... and all of those whose lives were taken for no reason," said Rothblatt, noting that his dad's best friend was badly injured that day.

Visiting the museum is not easy—museum officials recommend that kids be 11 to see the main exhibits but there are free art and activity programs for children starting at age 6 on Saturdays led by the teen ambassadors, with more planned for school breaks and summer. There is also **guidance on teaching children about 9/11** and a special **Museum Guide for Visitors with Children**. Museum officials suggest encouraging kids to closely look at an artifact and ask "What do you notice?" Answer their questions with basic facts and be specific.

The New York kids I interviewed for my **Kid's Guide to NYC** — one of my series of City Guides for Kids — were old enough to remember 9/11 and, of course, have vivid memories of that day. "Some people say New York City isn't a community but on 9/11, everyone was looking out for each other and trying to help," said Amanda, who was 10 then.

Today, New York is a top pick for families, attracting millions from around the world each year. They come for Broadway, for Times Square, for world-class museums (check out the special family and teen programs at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and the **American Museum of Natural History**), music, shopping and food. (A tip: If you plan to take in most major sites, consider **CityPASS** that saves you 40 percent on admission and enables you to cut the lines. Spread out in a Midtown suite hotel like **Residence Inn by Marriott** complete with kitchen and free breakfast or downtown at the upscale **Conrad NY** a block from the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

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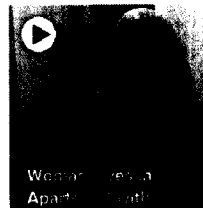
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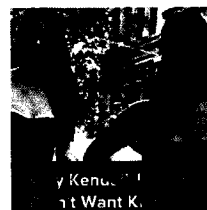
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Savvy traveling parents know the more input kids have in vacation planning, the more fun everyone will have.

Here's the Kids' Take on New York:

GET AROUND with public transportation like New York kids do.

MUST SEE:

The 9/11 Memorial Museum: "It was the most impactful moment of my trip," Christopher, 16, Los Angeles.

A Broadway Show: "My most favorite fun memory of New York is seeing a Broadway play with my family." Laura, 13, New Jersey.

The view from the top of the **Empire State Building** is "my favorite thing in New York," said Phillip, 17, from Sweden.

Going to watch a New York team play: "My favorite part was the Brooklyn Nets game." Thomas, 15, Washington, DC.

The American Museum of Natural History: "So many cool things to see!" Enesi, 15, The Bronx.

MUST-SEE OUTDOORS

Central Park, where you can ice skate in winter, see concerts in summer and go to the zoo. "The polar bears are really cool!" Chris, 10, NYC.

MUST SHOP

In Chinatown and the Lower East Side, shop for bargain purses and jewelry "and it's fun to bargain," said Colleen, 13, Long Island, N.Y.

MUST-EAT CANDY

At **M&M's World Times Square**

At **Dylan's Candy Bar**

MUST TAKE HOME

Anything "that says New York on it!" Jeremy, 17, Connecticut.

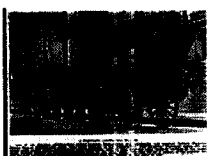
Eileen Ogintz writes the syndicated column and website Taking the Kids and is the author of the nine Kids Guide books. Follow @TakingtheKids on Twitter and Facebook. This is the eighth in a series looking at major American cities from kids' perspectives.

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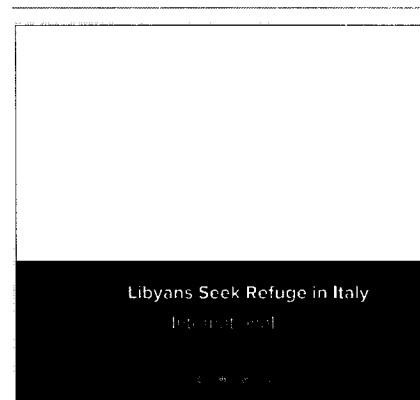


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NY AP TOP NEWS

Australian wins race up Empire State Building in 12 minutes

Updated Feb. 5, 2015 3:37 a.m. ET Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Australian woman won the annual race up the Empire State Building's stairs for the sixth time, a record for the women's event.

Suzy Walsham dashed up 1,576 steps to the 86th-floor observatory in the Empire State Building Run-Up on Wednesday night in 12 minutes and 30 seconds.

The men's race was won by German runner Christian Riedel, a first-time winner who came in at 10 minutes and 16 seconds.

The 38th annual tower climb was organized by NYCRUNS.

The participants came from around the world and were led by the elite women's and men's groups. The general field followed, with staggered, seconds-apart start times for racers to avoid a crush of people all trying to get into the stairwell at the same time.

Last year, Walsham won the women's event in 11 minutes and 57 seconds and Thorbjorn Ludvigsen, of Norway, won the men's race in 10 minutes and 6 seconds.

The course records are 9 minutes and 33 seconds for the men, set by Australian Paul Crake in 2003, and 11 minutes and 23 seconds for the women, set by Austrian Andrea Mayr in 2006.

German Thomas Dold holds the record for most men's victories, with seven.

The Empire State Building Run-Up is one of the most well-known tower climbs in the world.

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2/18/2015

Australian wins race up Empire State Building in 12 minutes - WSJ

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NY AP TOP NEWS

Lucky lovebirds say 'I do' atop NYC's Empire State Building

Updated Feb. 14, 2015 9:46 p.m. ET Associated Press

NEW YORK — One hundred couples braved whipping winds and biting temperatures to say "I do" at the top of the Empire State Building.

The Daily News reports (<http://nydn.us/1ACzSP1>) the lucky lovebirds won an online lottery in order to join the Valentine's Day group nuptials on Saturday. The group gathered on the building's 86th-floor observation deck. The deck is famous for its role in iconic romantic Hollywood movies like "Sleepless in Seattle."

Phillip Huynh and Braden Istas were planning a destination wedding in Panama. But the couple from Brooklyn couldn't resist the allure of the sky-high ceremony.

Huynh said it was amazing to get married in the "most iconic building in New York City."

Information from: Daily News, <http://www.nydailynews.com>

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Racers, take your step! Annual Empire State Building climb

By Jake Pearson Associated Press

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POSTED: 02/03/2015 11:09:26 PM CST | UPDATED: 14 DAYS AGO

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about a tall tale.

Hundreds of people will take to the stairs at the Empire State Building on Wednesday night, climbing from the lobby to the 86th floor observatory. They'll be going up the 1,576 steps as part of the 38th annual Empire State Building Run-Up.

The tower climb is organized by the New York Road Runners, which also puts together the New York City Marathon.

The participants come from around the world and are led by the elite women's and men's groups. The general field follows, with staggered, seconds-apart start times for racers so as to avoid a crush of people all trying to get into the stairwell at the same time.

Last year, Australia native Suzy Walsham won the women's event for a record fifth time, in 11 minutes and 57 seconds. Thorbjorn Ludvigsen, of Norway, won the men's race in 10:06. Both were expected to take part in this year's race.

The course records are 9 minutes, and 33 seconds for the men, set by Paul Crake of Australia in 2003, and 11 minutes and 23 seconds for the women. That was set by Andrea Mayr of Austria in 2006.

Thomas Dold of Germany holds the record for most men's victories, with seven.

The Empire State Building is one of the more well-known tower climbs around the world.

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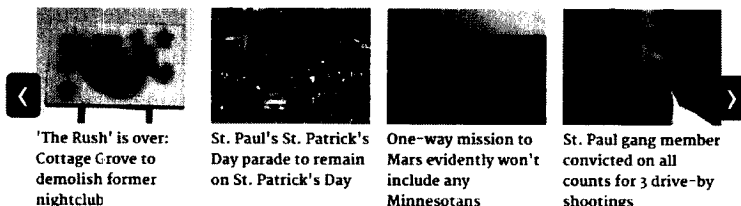
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- 'The Rush' is over: Cottage Grove to demolish former nightclub
- Hudson, Wis., rescuers come to aid of ailing trumpeter swan

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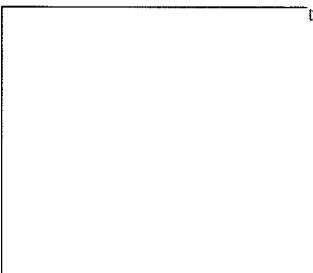
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Empire State Building run not for the faint of foot

Matthew Diebel, USATODAY 11:55 a.m. EST February 4, 2015



(Photo: Diane Bondareff/AP)

Think running for a bus is somewhat of a strain? Then you probably won't be among the elite runners from around the world who will climb 1,576 steps and 86 floors in the annual Empire State Building Run-up Wednesday evening.

Now in its 38th year, the event's men's and women's champs from last year, Norwegian Thorbjorn Ludvigsen, 26, and Australian Suzy Walsham, 41, are returning to defend their titles.

While visitors can reach the building's Observatory via elevator in under a minute, the fastest male runners cover the 86 floors in about 10 minutes, with the women just a couple of minutes behind.



It was a double win for Australians at the annual Empire State Building Run-Up as Mark Bourne raced up the 86 flights of stairs in 10 minutes, 12 seconds, and Suzy Walsham won the women's division in 12 minutes, 5 seconds. (Feb. 6) AP

The event, which begins at 8 p.m. ET has been dominated by international athletes in recent years, with Walsham having won a record-setting fifth title in 2014 with a time of 11:57. Her previous wins came in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2013.

"No other female has won it more than four times so I wanted to be the first and I am really proud of that record," Walsham told Race Results Weekly last year. "Among the tower running community, this is the one everyone wants to win," she added.

In the 2014 men's race, Ludvigsen won in the second-fastest time on record, 10:39. "It was a good fight," he told Race Results Weekly. "The season's just started and I'm off to a great start," he said, clutching the winner's trophy.



USA TODAY

[How a Ford Mustang climbed the Empire State Building](#)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2014/04/16/ford-mustang-empire-state-building/7791151/>

The top American, Tim Donahue, placed fifth in 11:17. The tower climb is organized by the New York Road Runners, which also puts together the New York City Marathon.

Wondering how they don't crush one another in the stairwells? Don't worry – the starts are staggered to avoid a melee of people all trying to get up the stairs at the same time.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING RUN-UP

1,576: Steps climbed in the race

1,050 feet: Distance climbed in the race (approximately one-fifth of a mile vertically)

9:33: Men's course record, set by Paul Crake of Australia in 2003

11:23: Women's course record, set by Andrea Mayr of Austria in 2006

7: Most race victories in Men's Invitationals, held by Thomas Dold of Germany (2006–11)

5: Most race victories in Women's Invitationals, held by Suzy Walsham of Australia (2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014)

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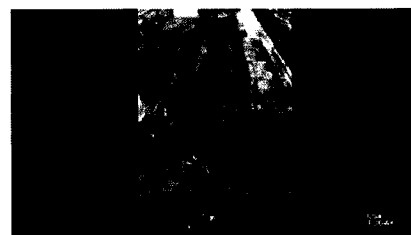


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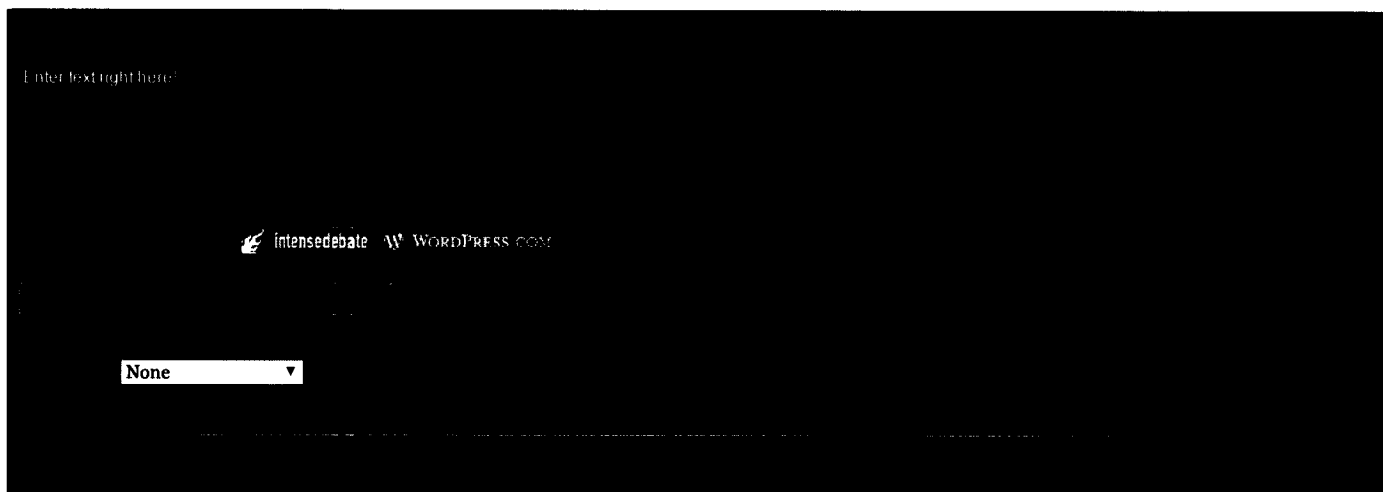
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SFGATE <http://www.sfgate.com/news/us/article/Australian-wins-race-up-Empire-State-Building-in-6063992.php>

Australian wins race up Empire State Building in 12 minutes

Updated 10:03 am, Thursday, February 5, 2015



FILE - The Empire State Building and the Manhattan skyline are seen from the Rainbow Room, New York City's landmark restaurant atop 30 Rockefeller Plaza, in this Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014 file photo. Hundreds of people will take to the stairs at the Empire State Building on Wednesday night Feb. 4, 2015, climbing from the lobby to the 86th floor observatory. They'll be going up the 1,576 steps as part of the 38th annual Empire State Building Run-Up.

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The Empire State Building Run-Up is one of the most well-known tower climbs in the world.

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Updated 1:03 pm, Thursday, February 5, 2015



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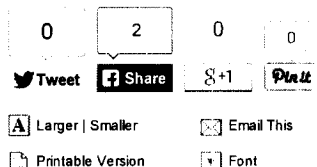
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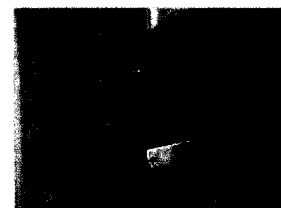
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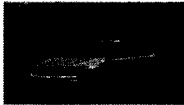
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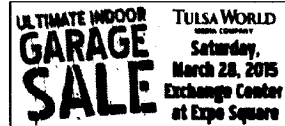
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Posted: Thursday, February 5, 2015 2:35 am | Updated: 6:09 pm, Thu Feb 5, 2015

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NEW YORK (AP) — An Australian woman won the annual race up the Empire State Building's stairs for the sixth time, a record for the women's event.

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The men's race was won by German runner Christian Riedel, a first-time winner who came in at 10 minutes and 16 seconds.

The 38th annual tower climb was organized by NYC RUNS.

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German Thomas Dold holds the record for most men's victories, with seven.

The Empire State Building Run-Up is one of the most well-known tower climbs in the world.

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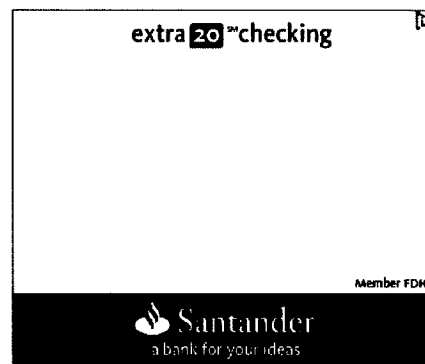
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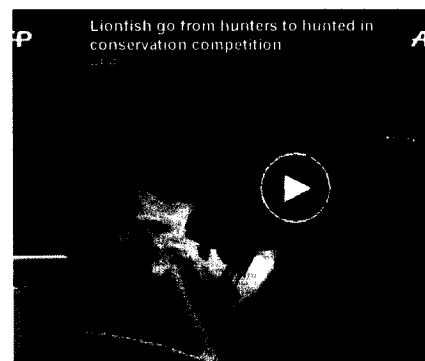
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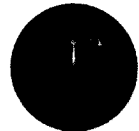
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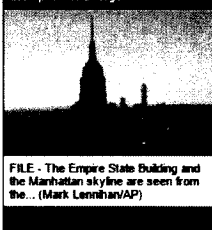
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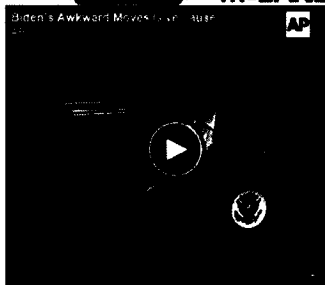


FILE - The Empire State Building and the Manhattan skyline are seen from the top. (Mark Lennihan/AP)

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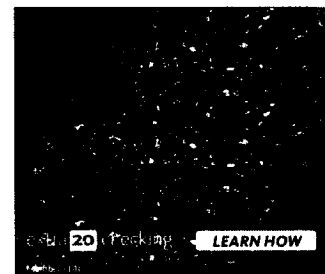
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Germany's Riedl wins Empire State Building climb for first time

By Eben Novy-Williams, Bloomberg News
Bloomberg

FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 11:20 PM

NEW YORK — Christian Riedl of Germany won the 38th annual run up the Empire State Building Wednesday night with a time of 10 minutes and 16 seconds, his first victory at the Manhattan skyscraper.

Singapore's Suzy Walsham won the women's heat with a time of 12:30, her record sixth victory.

About 200 people raced the 86 floors — 1,576 steps in all — from the lobby of the building to the observation deck. Runners in eight different heats, some competing for charity, others having won lottery entrance, took to the stairs in a staggered start at the Midtown Manhattan office building.

Riedl, 34, was ranked third in the 2014 year-end Towerrunning World Cup rankings.

Walsham, 41, previously won the Empire State Building Run- Up in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013 and 2014. She was the top-ranked woman in the 2014 World Cup rankings.

This year's race was organized by NYCRUNS, its first year managing the race that began in 1978. In previous years it was organized by New York Road Runners, the group that puts on the New York Marathon.

The course record of 9:33 was set in 2003 by Australian Paul Crake.

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FEBRUARY 14, 2015, 6:27 PM | NEW YORK

One hundred couples braved whipping winds and biting temperatures to say "I do" at the top of the Empire State Building.

The Daily News reports the lucky lovebirds won an online lottery in order to join the Valentine's Day group nuptials on Saturday. The group gathered on the building's 86th-floor observation deck. The deck is famous for its role in iconic romantic Hollywood movies like "Sleepless in Seattle."

Phillip Huynh and Braden Istas were planning a destination wedding in Panama. But the couple from Brooklyn couldn't resist the allure of the sky-high ceremony.

Huynh said it was amazing to get married in the "most iconic building in New York City."

Associated Press

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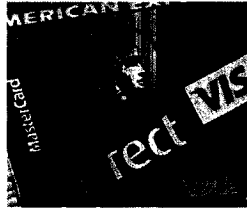


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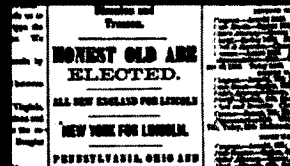
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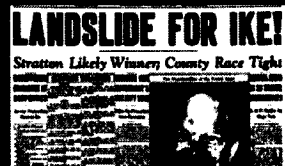
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Lucky lovebirds say 'I do' atop NYC's Empire State Building

Updated 6:47 pm, Saturday, February 14, 2015

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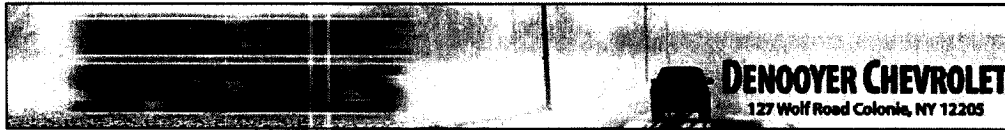
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Information from: Daily News, <http://www.nydailynews.com>

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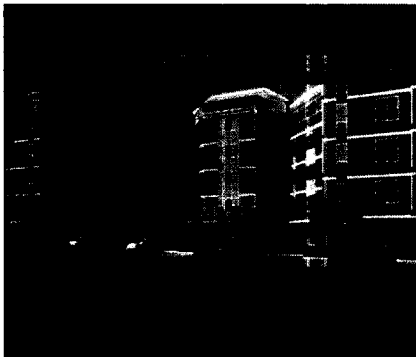
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Fireworks on Hudson planned for Chinese Lunar New Year

Published 11:15 am, Monday, February 16, 2015



NEW YORK (AP) — The Chinese Lunar New Year will be celebrated with fireworks on the Hudson River.

The Grucci and Barbash families of Long Island will light up the sky with a colorful display on Tuesday.

Newsday (<http://nwsdy.li/1zHSQhU>) says the 20-minute three-barge fireworks will be set to music.

The show is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

The weeklong celebration also will include a performance by the New York Philharmonic, an exhibition at the New-York Historical Society and a lighting of the Empire State Building.

Information from: Newsday,
<http://www.newsday.com>

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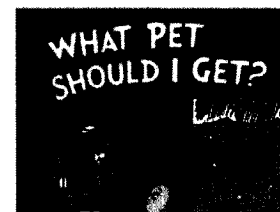


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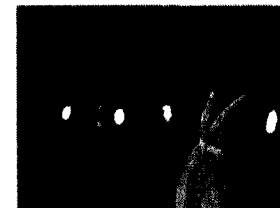


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URBAN GARDNER

432 Park Ave. Has a View Only Money Can Buy

Harry Macklowe Invites Ralph Gardner Jr. to the Top of His Luxury Condo



The view of the Empire State Building and the World Trade Center from 432 Park Ave. PHOTO: KEITH BEDFORD FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

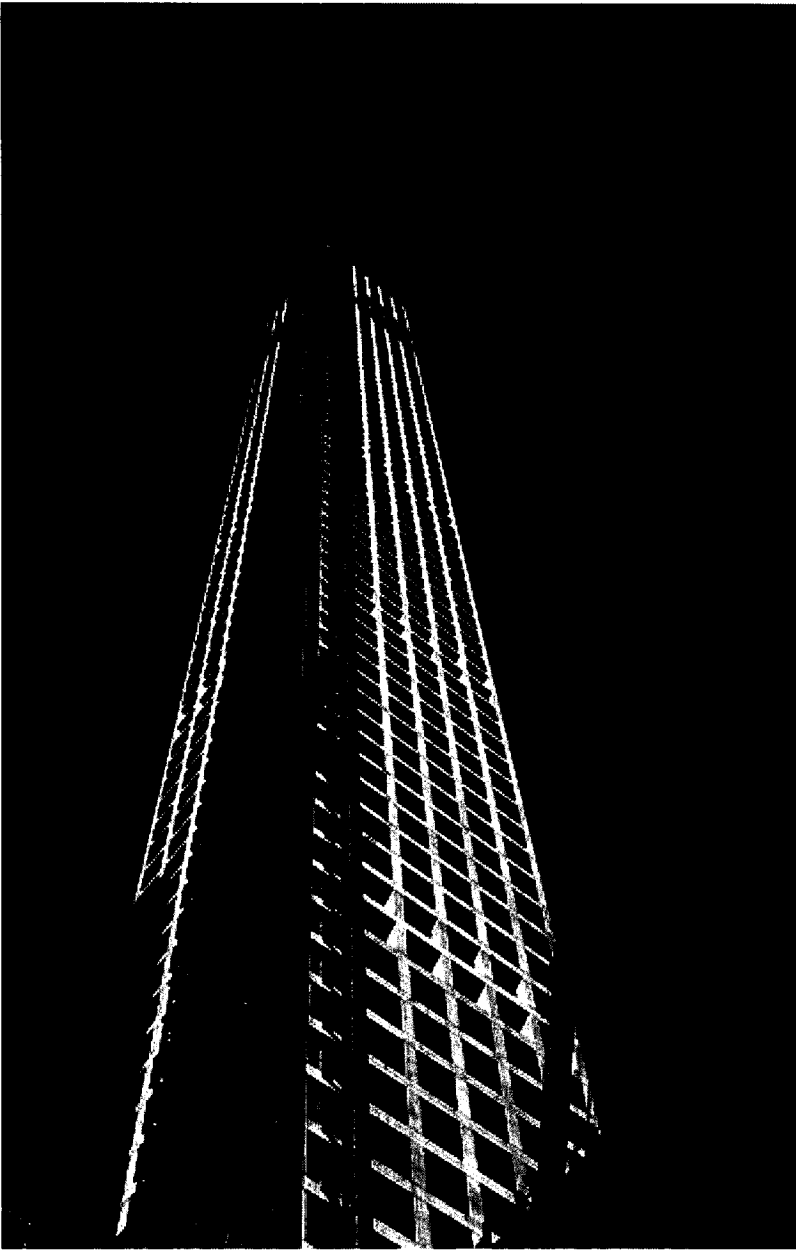
By **RALPH GARDNER JR.**

Jan. 12, 2015 8:52 p.m. ET

I'd been trying to wrangle a visit to the summit of 432 Park Ave. since last summer. So I was pleasantly surprised when I received an email in mid-November from Harry Macklowe, the tower's developer, inviting me for a tour.

The luxury condominium at Park Avenue and 56th Street dwarfs the surrounding neighborhood—and the surrounding neighborhood isn't quaint brownstones but skyscrapers in their own right.

In fact, 432 Park Ave. became the tallest residential building in the Western



The luxury condo at 432 Park Ave. PHOTO: KEITH BEDFORD FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Hemisphere when it reached its peak height in mid-October. At 1,396 feet, the skyscraper is taller than either the Empire State Building or One World Trade Center—minus their antennas.

Still far from completion, the super-slim high-rise has already become a symbol of ostentatious wealth. Its tenants aren't expected to be primarily extremely rich Americans, but the international plutocracy: Chinese

billionaires and absentee Russian oligarchs, though with the plummeting price of oil there may be fewer to pick from.

I say I was pleasantly surprised that Mr. Macklowe contacted me because a column I'd written only a month earlier didn't have the friendliest things to say about his structure, which sticks out like a sore thumb—or an even more emotive finger.

Our visit to 432 Park Ave. was scheduled and canceled several times, though, because of storms. The building is so tall that the weather is sometimes different at the bottom and the top: At this time of year, it may be raining at the base and snowing at the

summit.

“It’s roughly a 20 degree differential from the ground floor to the top,” said John Sjölund, the tower’s senior project manager, as we boarded a construction elevator and headed to the 96th floor. “A couple of days, we went through a cloud bank and the hoist went above the clouds.”

Unfortunately, Mr. Macklowe couldn’t join us. I was told he was leaving on vacation the next day.

I was slightly disappointed because I had a couple of questions I wanted to ask him about 432 Park Ave.’s immodest size: “What were you thinking?” and “When you look at the building do you ever fear you went too far?”



Central Park from on high. PHOTO: RALPH GARDNER/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

However, I wasn’t entirely heartbroken I didn’t get to meet the developer because my main priority was absorbing the view. An observation deck open to the public won’t be among the condo’s amenities. And since I don’t travel in social circles that include a lot of oligarchs, I doubted I’d be invited to any penthouse soirees.

The construction elevator, which runs along the outside of the building, was enclosed. But a couple of peepholes had been cut into its walls, so it was possible to watch the city fall away below me.

I particularly enjoyed the view from above the “Chippendale” top on the Sony Tower, a block away on Madison Avenue.

And we were hardly half way up.

Eventually, even One57, another new luxury condo overlooking Central Park in the tug of war for the affections of the superrich, seemed to shrink to inconsequence in the

distance.

I was told we'd be able to detect the curvature of the Earth once we reached the summit of 432 Park Ave. Regrettably, I neglected to verify that claim because I was worried about dying.



432 Park Ave. is the tallest residential building in the Western Hemisphere. *PHOTO: RALPH GARDNER/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

The 96th floor—one short of the top floor and being sold as a single apartment—was an open space with nothing to prevent me from taking an unscheduled flying lesson except for a swath of orange plastic netting.

There was also water pooled on the concrete floor, which I assumed was from the storms. Walls and the building's 10-by-10 windows, each weighing almost a ton, had yet to be installed on the upper floors.

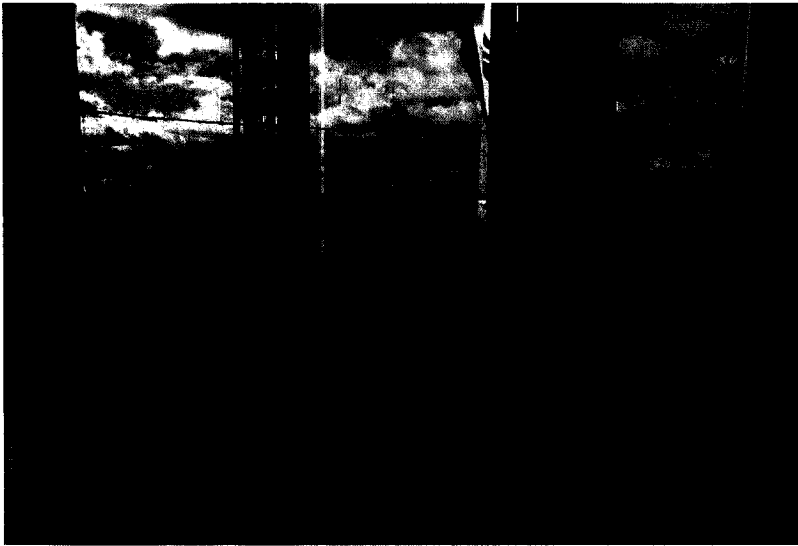
A construction worker pulled back the netting so I could see better.

"This screen messes up the whole beauty," he told me, taking obvious pride in the vista.

And he was right: The view was quite literally breathtaking.

Park Avenue stretched past the Upper East Side and into Harlem. To the west, Central Park resembled a well-maintained rug.

The facades of the buildings on Central Park West shone in the late morning sun, though only from about 70th Street north.



A construction worker works on the 77th floor at 432 Park Ave. PHOTO: KEITH BEDFORD FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

I couldn't tell whether the eclipse stretching across the southern portion of Central Park and the Upper West Side was caused by clouds or the shadows of this new generation of skyscrapers, predicted to plunge the lower portions of Central Park into darkness—particularly in winter.

To the south, the East River, blinding with reflected sunlight, snaked past Roosevelt Island and the United Nations.

Looking down upon the Empire State Building was also a novel experience.

Indeed, there appeared no feature on the skyline or beyond—heading out to sea, across to New Jersey or up the Hudson River and whether man-made or natural—that rivaled our vantage point.

And I'm sure it will be even nicer with windows, walls and furniture installed.

— ralph.gardner@wsj.com

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Blizzard howls its way into Boston but largely spares NYC



By The Associated Press
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, 7:06 a.m.

BOSTON — A howling blizzard heaped snow on Boston, the rest of eastern Massachusetts and parts of Long Island on Tuesday, delivering wind gusts topping 75 mph, but it failed to live up to the hype farther south in Philadelphia and New York City, which canceled its travel ban amid better-than-expected weather conditions.

Massachusetts was pounded by snow and lashed by strong winds early Tuesday as bands of heavy snow left some towns, including Sandwich on Cape Cod and Oxford in central Massachusetts, reporting more than 18 inches of snow. Total accumulation was expected to reach or exceed 2 feet in most of Massachusetts, potentially making it one of the top snowstorms of all time. The National Weather Service says a wind gust of 78 mph was reported on Nantucket, and a 72 mph gust was reported in Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard.

Coastal residents braced for a powerful storm surge and the possibility of damaging flooding and beach erosion, particularly on Cape Cod.

"It's part of living here," said Steve Berlo, who has an oceanfront home in Scituate, Massachusetts. "When the water comes, you get out of the way, and when it goes, you see what it left you. Like we always say, five days a year it sucks to live here, but the rest of the year it's good."

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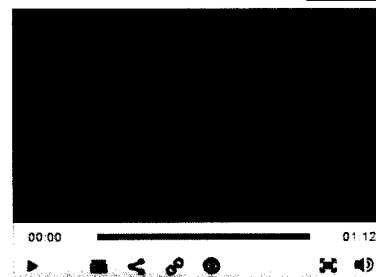


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Maine and New Hampshire each declared a state of emergency, and government offices in both states were closed Tuesday. In Hartford, Connecticut, up to a foot of snow was expected. Providence, Rhode Island, reported 10 inches of snow early Tuesday.

Parts of Long Island also experienced a blizzard, with snow falling 2 inches per hour. Islip had 14.7 inches of snow by early Tuesday. A 17-year-old boy snow-tubing with friends was killed when he crashed into a light pole and died Monday night amid moderate to heavy snow and gusty winds.

"It feels like a hurricane with snow," said Maureen Keller, who works at Gurney's, an oceanfront resort in Montauk.

Sections of New York were forecast to see 10 to 20 inches of snow, and a 60-mile stretch of the New York Thruway reopened after being shut down for about nine hours.

But as the storm system spun northward, conditions improved quickly from southwest to northeast. Travel bans were lifted by midmorning in New Jersey and New York. New York City buses, subways and trains were expected to restart later in the morning, and a return to a full schedule was expected Wednesday.

The National Weather Service over the weekend had issued a blizzard warning for a 250-mile swath of the region, meaning heavy, blowing snow and potential whiteout conditions.

But some areas in the Northeast escaped the brunt of the storm.

In southern New Jersey and Philadelphia, where a foot or more of snow had been forecast, residents dealt with just 3 to 5 inches, which proved to be more annoying than life-altering.

On Monday, some cities came to a near halt as officials ordered workers to go home early, banned travel, closed bridges and tunnels and assembled their biggest plowing crews.

Light snow fell steadily early Tuesday in midtown Manhattan as a few municipal trucks rumbled down empty streets. The city had an almost eerie, post 9/11 feel to it: no airplanes in the sky. An unexpected quiet.

Brandon Bhajan, a security guard at a West 33rd Street building, said the situation early Tuesday was better than expected.

"We expected a lot more accumulation," Bhajan said. "I feel like the wind is more of the problem than the actual snowfall. It's rough to walk and it's very, very cold."

"I don't think they (city) overblew it. I think it's like the situation with Ebola ... if you over-cover, people are ready and prepared rather than not giving it the attention it needs."

More than 7,700 flights in and out of the Northeast were canceled, and many of them might not take off again until Wednesday. Schools and businesses let out early. Government offices closed. Shoppers stocking up on food jammed supermarkets and elbowed one another for what was left. Broadway stages went dark.

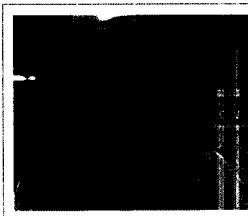
On Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange said it would operate normally Tuesday.

Through midmorning, utility companies across the region reported minimal power outages.

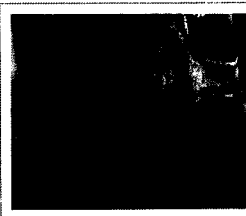
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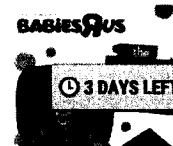
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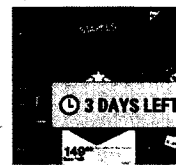
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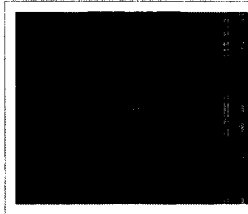
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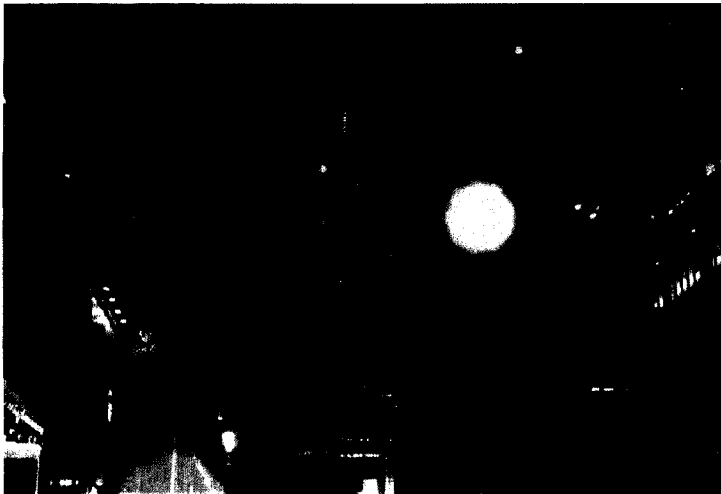
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'Wicked storm': Blizzard dumps 2 feet of snow on New England

Patrick Sison | Posted: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 5:27 pm



Snow falls around the Empire State Building in midtown Manhattan, on Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, in New York. Tens of millions of people along the Philadelphia-to-Boston corridor rushed to get home and settle in Monday as a fearsome storm swirled in with the potential for hurricane-force winds and 1 to 3 feet of snow that could paralyze the Northeast for days. (AP Photo/Patrick Sison)

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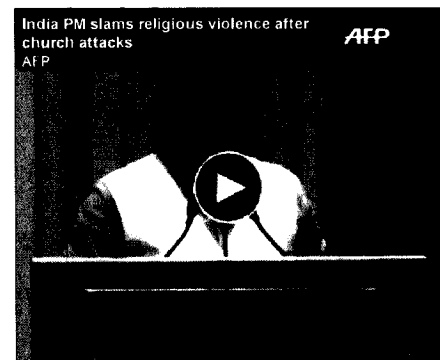
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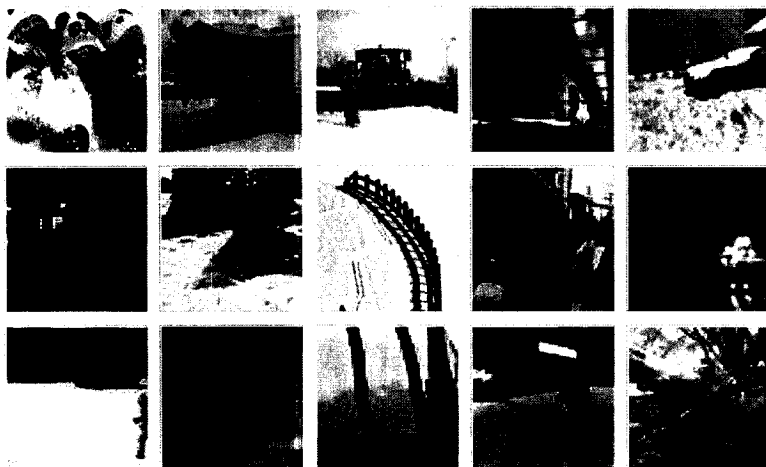
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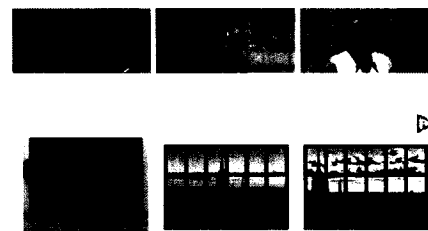
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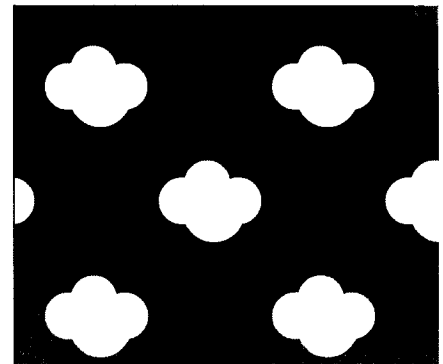
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